Hafa Adai!

Vaccines for adults at CHCC. PAGE 5
Superior Court: Mistrials are unusual. PAGE 7

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All set for special polls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is all set for the special election tomorrow, Saturday, during which Precinct 3 voters will choose among four candidates whom they believe should represent them in the House of Representatives.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol said yesterday they are prepared for Saturday's special election and that the two polling places will open at 7am and close at 7pm.

"We want our registered Precinct 3 voters to come out and exercise their right to vote," Igitol said.

The candidates are Marco Taisakan Peter of the Republican Party, Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the

See POLLS on Page 4

MVA unveils new Tinian sign

The Tinian destination sign that the Marianas Visitors Authority installed recently at Taga Beach.
MVA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently installed a Tinian destination sign on Tinian, with the hope that it will become as iconic a sign as its Saipan counterpart in Marpi.

MVA brought media and travel agents as well as a TV reality show to promote Tinian in the CNMI's markets.

MVA managing director Christopher Attao Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they put up the destination sign at Taga Beach, with the gorgeous blue waters and Goat Island in the background.

"This landmark sign is similar in design to the giant Saipan destination sign in Marpi [on Saipan] and will become a very popular attraction for sure," Concepcion said.

He said they also brought in a media and travel agent familiariza-

See MVA on Page 4

Cyclone Idai toll rises above 300

By FARAI MUTSAKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHIMANIMANI, Zimbabwe (AP)—Mozambique began three days of national mourning on Wednesday for more than 200 victims of Cyclone Idai, while the death toll in neighboring Zimbabwe rose to more than 100 from one of the most destructive storms to strike southern Africa in decades.

Torrential rains were expected to continue into Thursday and floodwaters were still rising, according to aid groups trying to get food, water and clothing to desperate survivors. It will be days before Mozambique's inundated plains drain toward the Indian Ocean and even longer before the full scale of the devastation is known.

People have been clinging to trees and huddling on rooftops since the

See CYCLONE on Page 4

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

Excelling in a male-dominated workplace

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Rose Soledad, who oversees the CNMI operations of telecommunications company IT&E as its general manager, finds solace in working alongside rather than competing with men.

In fact, Soledad, who has been with the company since 1992, is used to being in a male-dominated workplace because she started her career in the CNMI surrounded by dominant men.

See story on Page 20

WWII VETERANS

World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of Saipan, Battle of Tinian, and the Normandy Invasion 75 years ago return to the Saipan and Tinian to visit battle sites like the Sugar King Dock in celebration of the war's 75th anniversary this month.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See story on Page 3

INSIDE

NATION
In 2016, Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi stood and declared impeachment was "off the table."
PAGE 22

OFF THE WALL
Jason Windus gave his California neighbor something to look at—naked mannequins.
PAGE 24

LIFE & STYLE
Songs performed by Jay-Z and Cyndi Lauper are being added to the National Recording Registry.
PAGE 25

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Local

Two Marines return home for military exercise

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Two U.S. Marines with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 returned to their home island of Guam as part of Exercise Cope North 2019, a multinational exercise in Guam from Feb. 16 to March 8, 2019.

The Marines were part of a contingent of more than 2,000 U.S. airmen, Marines, and sailors who trained alongside approximately 850 Japanese and Australian service members during the annual exercise, which is designed to strengthen multilateral partnerships, sharpen lethality and improve interoperability in the Indo-Pacific region.

"When you join [the Marine Corps], you miss home. It feels great that I'm still doing what I wanted to do back home while still doing my job and I get to see my family," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Q. Blas Jr., powerline division chief.

"Coming back to Guam as a Marine is a little different," said Lance Cpl. Daelankris H. Alviz, plane captain. Originally born and raised in Guam, Alviz spoke about how much he had matured since becoming a Marine and how his family notices the difference now that he has returned as part of Cope North.

Cope North is a multilateral U.S. Pacific Air Forces-sponsored field training exercise conducted annually at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The exercise focuses on the employment of combined air forces in combat and mobility air forces training in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to enhance interoperability among U.S., Australian, and Japanese forces. ***(PR)***

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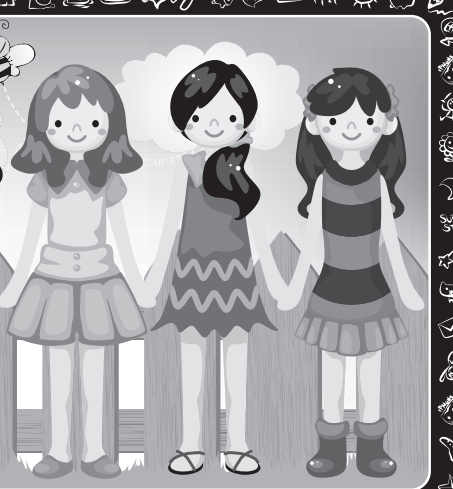

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Last group of WWII vets to tour CNMI on Monday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first five groups of World War II veterans have completed their tour of the CNMI and the final group is expected to make the same tour on Monday.

According to Pacific Development Inc. managing director Gordon Marciano, the first five groups of the extended tours for Iwo Jima for Guam, Saipan, and Tinian cleared out over the week and the final group will arrive on March 25.

The group will be led by Best Defense Foundation executive director Donnie Edwards, a former American football linebacker from San Diego, California. He played for 13 seasons in the National Football League for the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Diego Chargers. Edwards retired in 2009 as one of only eight players in the history of the NFL to record more than 20 interceptions and 20 sacks during his career and has since devoted himself to philanthropic work with veterans and children from underprivileged backgrounds.

The final tour will consist of seven World War II veterans who fought on Iwo Jima as well as on Saipan and Tinian during World War II nearly 75 years ago. The veterans are Andre C. Chappaz (1885th Aviation Battalion), Gilbert D. Nadeau (45th US Navy), Kenneth "Scooter" Barday (69th infantry regiment), Thiele F. Harvey (26th Marines Regiment), Joseph Germano (24th Communication Marines), Dean Ladd (8th Marine Division), and Ronald "Rondo" G. Scharfe (USS *Romulus*, U.S. Navy).

Marciano said the tour is an extended version of the yearly Iwo Jima tour and memorial ceremony.

"As most of our vets from the era are passing on, the government of Japan sees the importance and continues to commemorate the anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima with families of Japan and U.S. vets. The Tour of Iwo Jima is organized by Military Historical Tour in partnership with the government of Japan," he said.

The CNMI tour is made possible by the partnership between the Best Defense Foundation and the Military Historical Tours.

The visiting group consists of veterans of the Battle of Saipan, Battle of Tinian, and the Normandy Invasion.

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JON PEREZ

Several members of the Legislature join fourth to eighth grade students of the Northern Marianas International School for a group photo after hosting the children yesterday at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

Legislature plays host to NMIS students

The CNMI Legislature played host to students from the Northern Marianas International School and answered questions from the youngsters about the inner workings of the lawmaking branch of the government.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), and minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) led the House members that welcomed the 36 students from the fourth to eighth grade, along with NMIS officials led by vice principal Jener Pineda.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) was the lone Senate member in attendance.

The students' questions ranged from how a bill is made, to the duties and job of the speaker and the other members of the Legislature and the difference between the House and Senate. The children also wanted to know what's the favorite or fun part of the job.

Attao said lawmakers also do a lot of community work and, with the help of staff, do various projects in villages. ***(Jon Perez)***

CYCLONE

From Page 1

Personnel carry a body from a military helicopter in Chimanimani, about 600 km south east of Harare, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, March, 20, 2019 AP

cyclone roared in over the weekend, and aid groups were desperately trying to rescue as many as they can. The United Nations humanitarian office said the town of Buzi, with some 200,000 people, was at risk of becoming at least partially submerged.

"Floodwaters are predicted to rise significantly in the coming days and 350,000 people are at risk," the U.N. office said.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa received a somber welcome in the hard-hit mountain community of Chimanimani near the border with Mozambique. Zimbabwean officials have said some 350 people may have died.

"We do not want to hear that anyone has died of hunger," Mnangagwa said.

Clutching a bag of his few remaining possessions, Amos Makunduwa described the devastation with one stark sentence. "There is death all over," he said.

"It is beginning to smell really bad," he added. "The whole area is like one big body of water, huge rocks and mud. There are no houses, as if no one ever stayed here."

The force of the flood waters swept some victims from Zimbabwe down the mountainside into Mozambique, officials said. "Some of the peasants in Mozambique were calling some of our people to say, 'We see bodies, we believe those bodies are coming from Zimbabwe,'" said a local government minister, July Moyo.

Entire villages were swept away, said Gen. Joe Muzvidziwa, who was leading the military's rescue efforts in Zimbabwe. Some people had been out at beer halls when the cyclone hit and came home to find nothing left.

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi said late Tuesday that more than 200 people were confirmed dead in his country. After flying over the affected region on Monday, he said he expected the death toll to be more than 1,000.

Aid workers were shocked as they arrived in the Mozambique port city of Beira, estimated to be 90 percent destroyed. The 500,000 residents of the city, which has some neighborhoods that are below sea level, were scrambling for food, fuel and medicine.

"The power of the cyclone is visible everywhere, with shipping containers moved like little Lego blocks," said Marc Nosbach, Mozambique country director for the aid group CARE.

In footage shot by South African broadcaster eNCA, food and other supplies were dropped from a helicopter to a survivor standing waist-deep in water outside Beira. Another man clinging to a tree branch was hoisted to safety. Rescuers cradled small children, keeping them warm.

Meanwhile, international aid started trickling in.

"Everyone is doubling, tripling, quadrupling whatever they were planning" in terms of aid, said Caroline Haga of the Red Cross in Beira. "It's much larger than anyone could ever anticipate."

The United Arab Emirates pledged $4.9 million to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, the Emirates News Agency reported, citing the Emirates Red Crescent. Norway said it was providing $700,000.

The chairman of the African Union Commission said it would provide $350,000 in immediate support to the countries, and the United Nations allocated $20 million.

MVA

From Page 1

tion group from Russia to promote the island in the Russian market.

MVA also worked with SBS TV station from Korea to film *Law of the Jungle* on Tinian, a reality TV show similar to America's *Survivor* series.

MVA also brought in its resident Instagrammer from Japan to promote the Pika Festival in the Japan market.

For the China market, Concepcion said they brought in a travel agent familiarization group from Northeast China last month to promote Tinian in this massive market.

Concepcion said MVA will be bringing in a dive familiarization group next week, in partnership with Oceania Media to promote the island's many dive spots.

POLLS

From Page 1

Democratic Party, and independents David Castro Sablan and Mariano DLG Fajardo.

Igitol said voters must ensure that they bring with them a picture identification card as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot.

Igitol said as soon as all ballots are turned in Saturday night, tabulation will follow at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The designated polling venues for the special election are room 18 of Oleai Elementary School for Precinct 3A voters and the cafeteria of Garapan Elementary School for Precinct 3B voters.

Precinct 3A covers San Jose/Oleai, while Precinct 3B covers Garapan area.

Igitol said there were 98 early voters yesterday, bringing the total of early voters to 649.

The seven-day early voting, which has been held at the Garapan Community Development Center, started last Saturday and will end today, Friday.

As of last Jan. 28, there were 3,361 registered voters for Precinct 3.

The special election is being held following the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last January.

Vaccines for adults at CHCC

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is now offering adult vaccinations for several diseases.

CHCC, through the Commonwealth Health Center, is offering at least 13 vaccines available to adults at their new outpatient pharmacy—as allowed under the the Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Agreement.

As of publication, CHCC notes that there are currently four immunization-certified pharmacists and one immunization-certified pharmacist intern working on the program.

"Adult patients—those aged 19 years and older—will now not only have easier access to vaccines, but also easier access to education on what vaccines are needed per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, which is based on age and medical conditions," a CHCC statement noted.

The outpatient pharmacy is currently offering influenza vaccines, hepatitis A and B vaccines, pneumovax 23, prevnar 13, tdap, HPV, varicella, and shingrix. Other vaccinations such as those specific to rabies, yellow fever, typhoid fever, and meningococcal vaccines may also be requested.

In terms of prices, CHCC noted that private insurance usually covers CDC recommended vaccinations and vaccination fees are included in the CHCC sliding fee program. However, the price per vaccination will vary per patient.

"…The rate of vaccinations among adults is significantly lower than among children for most of the vaccines that are recommended by the CDC," noted the CHCC statement, citing the National Center for Health Statistics report No. 2017-1232.

"This is caused partially by a lack of education regarding the importance of vaccines, as well as lack of access points for immunizations," the statement added.

For more information about the program, call the CHCC outpatient pharmacy at 236-8798 and for vaccines for children, call the CHCCC immunization clinic at 236-8745.

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Rotary welcomes Yulo

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan welcomed Tuesday their fifth new member in 2019, Ryan Yulo, an auditor of the Ernst & Young auditing firm.

Rotary Club of Saipan president-elect Marcia Ayuyu acted as Yulo's sponsor and affixed the club's pin on his lapel during the induction, making him the Rotary's fifth inducted member for 2019.

"I believe and admire the mission and vision of the club, which is mainly to help serve others and help build a better world," he said. "As a new member, I will do my best to help the club achieve this goal."

Yulo was inducted under the accounting services classification.

"You have been invited to join the Rotary Club of Saipan but it is through your own actions that you become a Rotarian," club president Greg Borja said in a short speech. "We encourage you to learn all you can about the Rotary and to strengthen your own leadership and communication skills by actively participating in the activities of the club including attending weekly meetings, social events, and service projects."

Yulo was inducted last Tuesday right after the Rotary Club of Saipan inducted three additional members to its ranks: Joann Aquino, sponsored by Tatiana Babauta; Wendell Posadas, sponsored by Agnes McPhetres; and Das Krishnan, sponsored by Dave Sablan Sr. About two weeks prior, the Rotary Club of Saipan also inducted former member, Irene N. Holl, into the club and was also sponsored by Ayuyu.

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Calling on Ayuyu alumni: KHS looking for exit interviewers

Kagman High School takes the responsibility of preparing its students for the real world after graduation seriously. This is one of the reasons why the school hosts a week of senior exit interviews for all KHS seniors to vicariously experience what a job interview by a panel is like. This year we wanted to invite alumni to be a part of this panel. If you are interested in being a part of these panels, RSVP as soon as possibly by emailing leila.staffler@cnmipss.org. We have open seats and really want to have you be a part of this process. Your experiences and perspective as alumni are so valuable.

Things have changed since you came to KHS. Students now begin working on a portfolio starting in their freshman year that includes things like: the résumé, best work samples, reflections, community service, short- and long-term goal making, and more. Teachers focus on instilling 21st century skills, like innovation and technology, with the soft skills and work values, like time and attendance, effort and grit, in an effort to prepare these graduates for the real world after high school. We would love you to help us reinforce those values and emphasize the importance of this experience with your support, especially because of your alumni status. You live this every day.

If you graduated from Kagman High, we would love to have you participate with us.

We are also interested in hearing about what alumni are doing now in their lives! If you can't participate in the exit interviews, send us your info by filling out this survey to give us your latest updates: http://goo.gl/6gTqaN

If you are not an alumni but are interested in participating in this type of activity, email me at leila.staffler@cnmipss.org. We welcome interested community members to be part of the panel to give our current seniors feedback on the interview process. ***(PR)***

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Registering for NMC's spring semester

Northern Marianas College is encouraging those interested in advancing their education or professional career to register for the college's spring 2019 Semester. Registration is currently ongoing until March 23, 2019.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus or may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu.

Supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and a copy of a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

New students are required to take the math and English placement tests; the placement test dates are listed at www.marianas.edu.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6772 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Superior Court: Mistrials are unusual

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since joining the Judiciary in 2001, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja has never had to declare a mistrial. That is, until recently. He believes that mistrials are unusual.

In declaring a mistrial in *CNMI v. Manolo Romolor* jury trial last February, Naraja went into detail yesterday about the mistakes made by the prosecutor that gave the court no other choice but to order a mistrial.

"The court would like to note that this court has sat on this bench since November of 2001. It has seen many cases and a multitude of issues come before it. However, this is the first mistrial that this court has ever declared. Mistrials are unusual and only occur when there are exceptional mistakes. That was the unfortunate case here," his order stated.

In his court order, Naraja cited the excessive number of times the prosecution committed an act of prosecutorial misconduct—counting 14 different circumstances where the Commonwealth mischaracterized a witness' testimony, many hearsay issues, multiple instances where when the Commonwealth failed to establish adequate foundation to elicit testimony, excessive leading/excessive repetition of testimony despite multiple court warnings, and 10 difference circumstances where the victim was referred to by first name. Additionally, the court also issued 10 curative instructions to the jury, and at least five sidebars were called.

"It is abundantly clear that prosecutorial misconduct occurred. Over the eight to 10 hours of testimony in this trial, the defendant brought at least 80 objections, of which 70 were sustained. These were outstanding numbers. Seasoned and well-prepared attorneys do not have a large amount of technical objections. Many of the defendant's objections against the Commonwealth were technical in nature," it stated.

The order recognized, though, that the misconduct was not meant intentionally to result in a mistrial but, instead, was the result of lack of preparedness.

"Instead, the court believes that the Commonwealth's problems originate from a serious lack of preparation. The Commonwealth brought this upon itself. It was their purposeful handling of the case and their lack of preparation for the trial that was the cause for the prosecutorial misconduct," the order stated.

Because of this, the Commonwealth was still allowed to re-try Romolor on the same charges of sexual assault.

A new jury trial for Romolor is set for May 13, 2019.

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Pledge forms for Red Cross Walkathon now out

The pledge forms for the 33rd annual Red Cross Walkathon have been distributed to all public and private schools as well as the business community.

"We really need the community's support to enable us to fulfill our mission here in the CNMI," said Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, chapter board chairwoman.

This year's event on April 13 will also be held on Rota and Tinian. On Saipan, the venue is adjacent to the Guma Sakman building in Susupe.

There will be a 10K, 5K and 2K course, along with lots of fun and excitement for the whole family.

Participants will receive an event T-shirt designed by Magas as well as sandwiches and refreshments from Subway and the Coca-Cola group of companies.

Walkers who raise $75 on their pledge forms will also receive a free PIC Waterpark pass, $10 Mobil fuel voucher, $5 McDonald's Arch Card, and a F'real Smoothie or shake.

For additional pledge forms or event information, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

NMI Museum, SSHS partner in carwash fundraiser

The CNMI Museum of History and Culture and Saipan Southern High School's Student Council have partnered for a carwash fundraiser this Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 8am to 3pm.

The SSHS Student Council is donating part of the proceeds from the carwash to the museum.

NMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino said the museum has been reaching out to the various public schools on Saipan last year to collaborate with the museum on a carwash fundraiser and he is very glad that the Saipan Southern High Student Council decided to have one on museum grounds.

Every carwash ticket bought would give the holder two free entries into the museum for a tour while they wait for their car to be washed and vacuumed.

Aquino hopes other schools would decide to hold carwash fundraisers at the NMI Museum because it's an ideal place and allows individuals to go into the museum free since they have now expanded their operations from Monday to Saturday.

Aside from the carwash fundraiser, the Marianas Visitors Authority and the CNMI Humanities Council will be hosting private events on museum grounds in the next couple of months.

For more information about the carwash or for tickets call Elaiza Suarez at 783-0951, or Patsy Atalig at 788-2401. ***(PR)***

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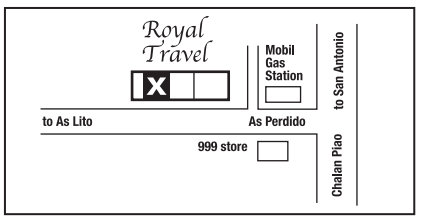

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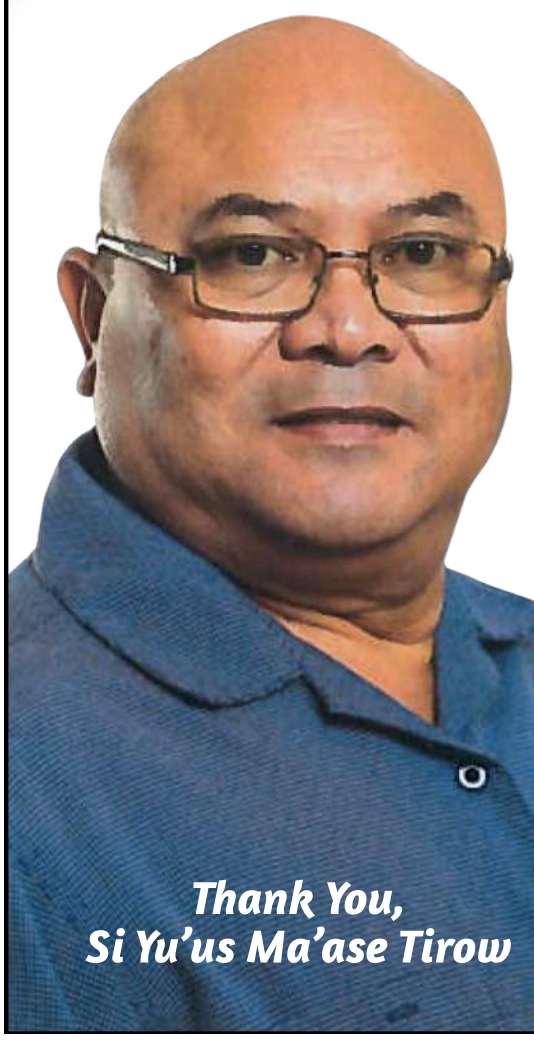

Thank You,
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PLEASE VOTE #1 ON THE BALLOT

Attao expects revised budget reports

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said the Legislature looks forward to working with the Torres administration in order to come up with a balanced budget for the operations of the CNMI government in fiscal year 2020, which begins on Oct. 1 this year.

The third-term lawmaker from Precinct 3 said that fiscal year 2020 may still be six months away but the Legislature already wants to start planning on how the government's revenues will be distributed.

Attao said the Legislature wants to see a better picture of the government's projected revenues and collection.

"We're still waiting for the report from Finance and [Office of Management and Budget]. We cannot just make up numbers, we got to see the figures," he said. However, because the CNMI just went through Super Typhoon Yutu, this early, the collections and anticipated projections for fiscal year 2019 have already dropped this early.

Yutu hit the islands in the last week of October 2018.

Attao said that revenue collection in the first quarter of the current fiscal year significantly dropped after Yutu, with economic activity limited to within the community and visitor arrivals stopped.

"We sustained a lot of damage from Yutu. And, coming up with the [fiscal year] 2020 budget is our main priority as the CNMI continues to recover. The funds of the government come from taxes, like the Business Gross Revenue Tax. We're trying to revamp and revisit the [government's finances], so we can protect the fiscal year 2020 budget."

Attao said, in an event of an austerity measure, or worse, a partial government shutdown, they would look at funding essential sectors of the government first in order to keep it functioning. "That's what we can do, like during the austerity days that we had in the past back in 2010 and even during the [partial government] shutdown."

Attao

"In the shutdown, there were essential sections that…must remain open, like public health, public safety, and the public school system. There are preliminary ways of what they [administration] are considering of doing with the anticipation of the money that's not in yet and our [first quarter] collections obviously down."

He added that the money still being spent by the government is still part of the fiscal year 2019 budget and collections for the second quarter of the current fiscal year are still ongoing, ending on March 31.

"Hopefully, there won't be any government shutdown. But the shutdown can only happen on Oct. 1 of the new fiscal year. Our [Legislature] job is to prevent that from happening. [Finance and OMB] will be submitting a revised [report] on April 1. If the third and fourth quarter [revenues] carry us through, then I'm optimistic that there will be another revised [report].

The House Ways and Means Committee has been tasked to look at the collection of the Division of Revenue and Taxation under the Department of Finance.

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SSA warns public of telephone impersonation scam

The Social Security Administration and its Office of the Inspector General have launched a joint public service announcement campaign addressing a nationwide telephone impersonation scheme.

Social Security and the OIG continue to receive reports from across the country about fraudulent phone calls from people falsely claiming to be Social Security employees. Calls can even "spoof" Social Security's national customer service number as the incoming number on the caller ID.

The new PSAs will air on TV and radio stations across the country to alert the public to remain vigilant against potential fraud.

"We urge you to always be cautious and to avoid providing sensitive information such as your Social Security number or bank account information to unknown people over the phone or internet," said Nancy A. Berryhill, acting commissioner of Social Security. "If you receive a call and are not expecting one, you must be extra careful—you can always get the caller's information, hang up, and contact the official phone number of the business or agency the caller claims to represent. Do not reveal personal data to a stranger who calls you."

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people—generally those who have ongoing business with the agency—by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees *will never* threaten a person or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information. In those cases, the call is fraudulent and people should not engage with the caller. If a person receives these calls, he or she should report the information to the OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271 or online at https://oig.ssa.gov/report.

"These calls appear to be happening across the country, so we appreciate SSA's partnership in this national public outreach effort," said Gail S. Ennis, the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration. "Our message to the public is simply this: If you or someone you know receives a questionable call claiming to be from SSA or the OIG, just hang up."

The new PSA addressing the telephone impersonation scheme is available online at www.youtube.com/socialsecurity. ***(PR)***

Saipan Vegas celebrates 2nd anniversary

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Vegas Resort celebrated its 2nd year anniversary on Saipan last March 17 with a promise to offer more fun and leisure in the years to come.

Located in Chalan Lau Lau on Middle Road, Saipan Vegas Resort offers a triple threat—a gaming experience, affordable accommodations, and a round of golf in a nine-hole course—all in one place.

The resort is currently finishing plans to expand accommodations to attract more travelers and entice more tourists to come to Saipan.

"Currently, we have 50 budget hotel rooms and we are building additional five prefabricated rooms. …The rooms give guests the look and feel of comfort that includes basic amenities like cable TV, aircon, and fiber optic WiFi," said Saipan Vegas and Club 88 consolidated manager Gus Noble.

It is also expanding its gaming room and will also open a new restaurant in the front section of Saipan Vegas.

The concept, Noble said, is to offer budget accommodations, which is popular around the world. He said what they offer is quite unique: affordable, comfortable, and fun all in one place.

"We are built for the budget traveler, which we think is a real niche needed in the market. …We need our luxury hotels but we also need a full range of hotels to get all the travelers on island—both luxury and budget travelers."

"Everyone is welcome to Saipan Vegas Resort. We also invite visiting locals from Rota and Tinian that will be on island for a brief stay," he added.

According to Saipan Vegas marketing supervisor Racquel Floyd, their venue is known for having the biggest floor-wide jackpot on Saipan.

"We make sure that we always have new promotions for our players every month so it is always exciting here at Saipan Vegas," she said.

"We have already given away over $500,000 worth of jackpot prizes from January to March of this year," she added.

Noble said that they are heavily invested in the CNMI as they are doing everything to help the CNMI economy prosper. "We have a good business that is sustainable as we have a 100-percent local workforce policy [and] 50 supporting staff who are all locals. … We are very happy about our growth as we are able to sustain a business that is contributing to the CNMI economy for two years now."

Like most businesses on island, the experience of Super Typhoon Yutu last year was one of the biggest challenges business owners had to overcome but Saipan Vegas was able to recover immediately.

"Saipan Vegas opened the water well to the public who were in dire need of non-drinking water," Noble said. "With our generator and own water supply, we actually never shut down during or after the typhoon."

For reservations, call 234-8714 and look for Hotel & Golf Course manager Rae Wang or log in to www.saipanvegas.com.

Saipan Vegas Resort in Chalan Lau Lau on Middle Road celebrated its 2nd year anniversary on Saipan last March 17 with a promise to offer more fun and leisure in the years to come. BEA CABRERA

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Take up baton: Join MMAC

It's that time of the year where the island of Saipan stays up from sunset to sunrise for the Commonwealth Cancer Association's signature event, the Marianas March Against Cancer.

This year, MMAC will be on May 3 to 4, with location details to follow.

Since 2002, MMAC has become the signature event of the CCA and the funds raised have supported CCA's mission to advocate for a cancer-free CNMI through early detection, public education, awareness about cancer prevention and screening, and to provide hope and support for cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

"Despite the challenges from Super Typhoon Yutu, the steering committee and event stakeholders will continue the fight against cancer in the Marianas to support family members still battling and to honor the memory of those who have passed. We are excited to announce that MMAC will continue in May again this year," said steering committee co-chair Bobby Cruz.

Team registrations are due on March 22. There are six categories that teams can register as: Åtdao Team (nonprofit/government); Pulan Team (family); Napu Team (school); Puti'on Team (corporation); Tano Team (nonprofit +/or school +/or government); and Tasi Team (corporation + family, nonprofit, or School).

"Many of us have been affected by cancer, directly or indirectly, and MMAC is a great way to show your support. Take action this year and be part of a community united in the belief that it can make a difference in the fight against cancer by participating as a team," said steering committee co-chair Carline Sablan.

Inquiries for registration can be directed to Recruitment Subcommittee co-chairs Jackie Che or Vinni Orsini at recruitment.mmac@gmail.com.

MMAC 2019 is organized by a volunteer steering committee. ***(PR)***

Risk of rip current is lowered

The risk of rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are no longer high.

Based on the information from the National Weather Service in Guam, the east swell has diminished to 5 to 6 feet and surf has fallen to 6 to 8 feet along east facing reefs. The risk of rip currents is now moderate. East swell is expected to continue to decline the next couple of days. ***(PR)***

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Stateless man, 10 others take oath as new citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, seated center, Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, seated right, and CNMI Women's Association president Rose Taman Ada-Hocog, seated left, join the 11 new citizens in a group photo during a naturalization ceremony yesterday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Ronwaldo Supnet Pascua, 41, a health inspector on Tinian, is relieved to have finally obtained his U.S. citizenship.

Pascua, who used to be a stateless person in the CNMI as he was born and raised on Tinian to Filipino immigrant parents who came to the CNMI in 1965, finally obtained his citizenship after a former spouse petitioned him.

For Lili Duan, 30, she felt that taking her oath as a U.S. citizen was a great moment and she is excited. "I feel like a true part of the United States," she said.

She acknowledged that obtaining her citizenship confers on her a lot of benefits but she also wants to contribute to the country.

Duan, who is originally from Shenyang, China, first arrived on Saipan in 2014, where she worked as an assistant marketing manager for Pacific Islands Club.

That same year, Duan met her husband, who was born and raised on Saipan.

At present, Duan works as a learning and development manager at the Duty Free Shop.

For Romeo Francisco Villanueva, 71, a security guard on Rota, obtaining his citizenship has been a longtime dream.

Villanueva, who hails from Cavite, Philippines, first came to Rota in 1985, when he worked as an electrician at the then-construction site of Rota Resort.

Villanueva met his wife at the Rota Health Center, where she worked as a nurse. Their daughter is a pharmacist who currently lives in Seattle. Their other daughter, a former member of the U.S. Air Force, lives with her husband in South Korea.

The two daughters petitioned Villanueva and his wife Shirley to become citizens. Shirley Villanueva is expected to take her oath as a new citizen by next week.

Pascua, Duan, and Villanueva were among the 11 individuals who took their oaths as U.S. citizens before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona during a naturalization ceremony.

The new citizens are from the Philippines, China, Kiribati, and Nepal.

Rose Ada-Hocog, CNMI Women's Association president and Public School System family engagement coordinator, who served as the guest speaker during the ceremony, said the CNMI is celebrating this month the Commonwealth Covenant Day, the National Women's History Month, the CNMI Women's Month, and the International Women's Day.

Ada-Hocog said this year's theme of the CNMI Women's Month celebration is "Lead-Her-Ship: Masters of Our Own Destiny." The theme calls for women in the CNMI to take charge of their destinies and to steer their lives in the direction they desire.

Ada-Hocog said the new citizens have steered their ship in this direction—life, liberty, and justice.

"Your journey leading up to this very moment have been long, and I am sure, like many, was filled with many challenges," she said.

Ada-Hocog said it is not easy to leave a place you have known all your life and move to a foreign land to start a new life.

"You all have your personal reasons for leaving the place you called home. But no matter the reason, you are all united by a common thread—a deep love for your family and the desire for something better," she said.

As a woman, a mother, and a wife, Ada-Hocog can relate to that. "Like you, I have led and am continuing to lead my ship in the direction that would not only benefit me, but my loved ones as well," she said.

With the new status and citizenship comes added responsibilities that are required of every American, Ada-Hocog said. She said the pledge is but a mere summary of all that is expected and required of every American.

"But let me impress upon you that these responsibilities and expectations give your citizenship a deeper meaning, most especially because, unlike those born in America and became automatic American citizens, you my friends, chose to be American citizens," she said.

Forty-three years ago, those of Northern Marianas descent voted to join the U.S. family and they became Americans. "For many, it was not by choise, but it was through the collective decision of the majority and our leaders, at that time, who wanted to steer the NMI in the direction of prosperity," Ada-Hocog said.

Aside from Pascua, Duan, and Villanueva, the other new citizens are Huaping Shan Bacon, Jose Guevarra Jimenez Jr., Ma Viveth Bartolome Jimenez, Isha Adhikari King, Aludia Ramirez Lamorena, Jimmy Camaya Manalang, Ruthzel Libuna Perez, and Salaneta Wessel.

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Torres seeks additional Medicaid benefits

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has sought the assistance of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II in providing additional assistance to the CNMI Medicaid program, after the devastation wrought by Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

Yutu, aside from damaging homes and other infrastructure (both private and public), gravely affected the CNMI's economy after projections are showing that revenues will be reduced. The CNMI government was also forced to lower its budget projection by 4.7 percent—a loss of $12,048,000.

The CNMI government has also fronted the costs for relief and recovery but will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with the first batch of federal money expected to come next month.

"We have initiated planning for the implementation of austerity based on the reduction in financial revenues. While we have been working hard to recover from [Yutu], and appreciate efforts of the [U.S.] Department of Homeland Security and FEMA, the overall and full financial recovery will take years. We are also hopeful for a quick recovery, but we remain wary of a further reduction in government revenues and slower return to normalcy," said Torres.

He added that his administration hopes HHS would give the CNMI's Medicaid beneficiaries the same assistance it gave to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands when both U.S. territories were also hit by disasters.

"We are in need of an increase of funding for a period of time. We have studied the significant assistance provided to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and are committed to making reasonable and appropriate progress to achieve the same objectives to submit data to the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System and to establish a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit," said Torres.

He said his administration is hoping to get the support of President Donald J. Trump. "[Hopefully] that President Trump will encourage [U.S.] Congress to address the needs of the territories by applying the statutory requirements equal to the states for Medical Assistance Program and the Federal Matching Assistance Percentage."

"The CNMI will have completely expended the last of the funds under the Affordable Care Act during this quarter and the Medicaid program is planning to severely curtail services that will directly affect our beneficiaries and our fragile health system." ***(Jon Perez)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Fairness 101: What to learn from the college admissions scandal

AP

This combination photo shows actress Lori Loughlin at the Women's Cancer Research Fund's An Unforgettable Evening event in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 27, 2018, left, and actress Felicity Huffman at the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 17, 2018.

Throw the book at the rich and famous parents who have been charged with faking their kids' way into elite colleges by paying to rig standardized tests and more. And at the coaches who pocketed bribes to recruit kids they knew could never play a game. And at the guy who got wealthy running the whole fraud.

Then pause from excoriating the wrongdoers to ask what it says about the way these institutions of higher learning enrapture many of us, and shake money out of the pockets of their alumni.

One: Legacy admissions—by which the sons and daughters of graduates get, according to one study, a 45-percentage-point boost in admissions rates compared with equally qualified students who are not, and who knows how much bigger a boost when mom and dad can afford huge donations—privileges the already privileged. It is unjust.

(Meantime, affirmative action as we know it is ripe for a reinvention that focuses far more on class than race.)

Two: Though Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and other schools that parents cheated for their progeny to attend are excellent institutions brimming with great professors, more Americans must understand that there is no magic emanating from their ivory towers. Schools across the country offer an outstanding education and a path to career achievement.

Of course it is natural for families to want what they perceive as the very best. But in too many quarters, the allure of universities thought to sit at the commanding heights is distorted beyond all reason, with the status-laden satisfaction of joining an especially select club fueling a self-perpetuating myth of meritocracy.

Precious few parents cheat their kids' way in. Too many others live and breathe under a closely related spell. Break it.

(c)2019 *New York Daily News*

Family... we're going to have a two-day digital detox! Give up your smart phones and computers!
OK..OK! You gave them up for two hours!! You can have them back!! Let's get back to normal!
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KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

America, it's time to correct our mistakes

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

WASHINGTON—Before we get obsessed with the personalities, foibles, fund-raising skills and possibly passionate positions of the many politicians running for president, let's take a moment to figure out what kind of country we want the United States to be.

Because it is, you know, changing and many of those changes are dramatic.

Before World War II, there was a powerful wave of isolationism in America. As the rest of the world spun out of control, millions of Americans wanted nothing to do with the chaos, misery and evil stalking far-away shores. But those forces were too powerful, and we, too, were pulled into the melee.

After two horrific world wars and later, with the always present nightmare of nuclear war haunting us, we thought we had learned important lessons about building one world, lessons about getting along with enemies and making society better and more full of opportunities.

Now we are back in a world where millions want to shut out others, where intolerance and dislike and fear of those who have different cultures rule. Where we have ours, and you stay away from us.

We are plagued by children without enough food or medicine or education. We have new epidemics with names such as Ebola. We have billionaires and celebrities who flaunt great wealth and buy their children's way into prestigious universities while others work two or three jobs and can't make ends meet or afford health care.

The sun has gone down on the once shining city on the hill, and the candles inside are flickering.

Even worse, millions are bored, uninformed, uncaring, jaded or trying to divert the dreariness with drugs or food or consumerism or mindless entertainment. Or they are enjoying the bumpy ride of a buffoonish cartoon character laying waste to the known landscape.

We may be at one of those points in history where it's hard to see the forest for the trees.

When somebody murders dozens of men, women and children in a place of worship and cites the president of the United States as his inspiration, we need to refocus.

When dozens of people connected with that president are indicted or convicted or under investigation or have pleaded guilty of malfeasance of one sort or another and we have grown numb, we need to rethink our values.

When the richest among us are given everything they need to make more money, at the expense of everyone else, we should be outraged.

When this country no longer incessantly demands human rights for everyone down the street or around the world, we should wonder if we are in moral peril.

When we have years of outright lies, disrespect for and ridicule of other domestic and world leaders, a rude shunting away of courtesy, tradition, a shredding of treaties and normal behavior and blurted out threats of war and chaos, we must ask, "Is this who we want to be? Is it too late?"

At some point we have to say, this is not just one person causing this shredding of our sense of selves and values, this is on many of us.

Those who didn't vote. Those who laughed and enjoyed the drama, bingeing on the collapse of our institutions. Those who turned away from children in cages, muttering "those aren't real cages." Those who wanted others to feel the same pain and loss and hardship they do. Those who are so angry at the system they'd rather see it torn down than built back up, better than it was. Those who feel affronted at somebody else's gender or skin color or religion or country of origin. Those who (mistakenly) believe this was always a white country and should always be one. Those who stopped doing their jobs the best they could because what was the point? Those who have given up.

In autocracies and dictatorships and monarchies, sometimes there is no choice for years or decades or generations, no chance to reverse course or change.

Fortunately, we live in America. We control our fate. We get chances to correct our mistakes. It's noisy and messy and expensive and frustrating. But, usually, eventually, it works. All we have to do is care enough and not stick our heads in the sand.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gas

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

As of yesterday morning, self-serve gasoline cost about $3.94 per gallon for regular grade on Saipan. Also as of yesterday, oil was trading at its year-to-date high in New York. West Texas Intermediate crude stood at about $60 a barrel. People who deal with oil markets are keeping a sharp eye on prices right now.

I don't know any pros on the automotive side of the fuel market, but airplanes burn a lot of fuel and I do have friends in that realm. An old Saipan hand, who now lives in the states and sells jet fuel, told me that his costs for fuel have been steadily rising over the past few weeks. He thinks it's just the normal wiggling of the market, though. He hasn't heard any rumors that might indicate there's a more substantial trend in the making. That doesn't mean there isn't a trend arising, of course, but, as of now, he's not hearing any worries in his circles.

Back on the car front, springtime seems to inspire talk about new cars, especially fuel-efficient models, and I have to admit that some of my older iron is costing too much to feed.

I'll draw some numbers in the sand, so I'll grab a stick and pick some assumptions out of the blue sky. If you drive an average of 30 miles per day on Saipan, that's 10,950 miles a year. At 15 miles per gallon you'll be burning 730 gallons per year, amounting to $2,876 a year, or $240 a month. A more efficient car that gets 25 miles per gallon would burn 438 gallons per year, costing $1,726 a year, or $144 a month.

So the more efficient car would save $1,150 per year, or $96 per month, in fuel.

Those are just out-of-thin-air mileage numbers, of course. I have no idea what most people are getting, but Saipan's stop-and-go driving is not friendly to mileage calculations. Furthermore, I do a lot of driving wherever I am, Saipan included, so perhaps my 30 miles per day is a bit heavy for some folks on the island.

Anyway, let's have more fun with this scenario.

Let's consider a hypothetical car loan that's five years long with an interest rate of 6 percent annually. Let's also consider that we could get the more fuel efficient car on such a loan. If we contribute our $96 in monthly fuel savings to payments toward that car, the $96 will carry $4,966 worth of car.

That's not much car. But maybe it could help swing the balance in favor of a new, more fuel-efficient car if there are other reasons in the mix, or if you're going to get one anyway and want to sell the idea to your spouse.

Of course, that's merely a one-dimensional look at the fuel angle. There are a lot of other factors involved in a new car purchase that I'm ignoring.

Given the realities of the car market, though, as well as the condition of many island pocketbooks, I'd say it's not uncommon to be spending $240 a month in gas for an older car that has probably seen better days, especially if you drive a lot for business errands.

One related problem is the constant, almost torturous uncertainty that many people face over their jobs. Having a new car is one of life's greatest pleasures, but the shine can come off the prospect if you're worried about having to sell the thing at a loss because your job left the island. Consequently, money that could otherwise be spent on more efficient cars is getting burned as fuel, as many potential buyers lack the confidence necessary to make the long-term capital commitment. The CNMI has that problem in a lot of areas, not just cars.

People often consider the big projects, like hotels, when it comes to investment activity, but I'd submit that what's also important is the household level of capital commitment to things like cars, appliances, homes and associated maintenance, and even education and development of job skills. Some of this stuff isn't formally tallied as investment by textbooks, but the fact remains that, without some rational basis for financial confidence, the island can start taking a shabby, rundown appearance, where a lot of stuff is worn out or broken, and there doesn't seem to be much reason for fixing things up since anyone's fortunes and hopes could all blow away with the wind, be it of the literal or the figurative variety.

Egads, that's a pretty downbeat thing to ponder. I think I'll cheer myself up. It's time to take a nice drive. Four bucks won't get you much these days, but it'll buy enough gas to put a few miles between me and my worries.

Rough days ahead

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The budgetary shortfall of about $12 million (per the governor's submission to the Legislature) shows a decrease in revenue generation.

The dip came from overall economic contraction that started with two storms late last year. It means a bit less for our obligations like healthcare and education, among others. Hope a return to economic normalcy would boost revenue generation to healthier level soon.

The reality of funds increasing depends on private industry expansion that isn't moving anywhere at this point. The contraction ought to ring the alarm bell that something's afoot—far less for far more—a temporary setback.

Acting Finance secretary David DLG Atalig recently said it is "scary as we are really low on cash" in his recent meeting with the Legislature. What's the magnitude of his assertion: is the NMI poised to see more revenue or is it fair warning of further dip in resources? Logical that it would have to be the latter.

It's useless rationalizing the drop in revenue by $12 million at this point. It's not available to pay for obligations. Chances of it improving and by how much? Would it be anywhere near half of the $12 million? What does it mean if it keeps going south? It would obviate taking drastic measures like serious austerity (cut in work hours), if not, furlough—release of employees from their jobs?

At day's end, we must accept that both are serious fiscal issues, their maintenance contingent upon sufficiency of funds from economic activities.

Loss: Meanwhile, there were storms and exit of Nippon investments in recent past that resulted in the loss of about $14 billion. It's a humongous amount that presents the query: How do we recoup $14 billion today? Private industry expansion is at a standstill as this point.

We could rebuild from the storm, but there's nothing we could do with the exit of Nippon investments. The heavy implications of the latter are definitely very troubling. Without this economic expansion would it gradually translate into economic hardship here like huge job losses?

How about Da Boysis employing depth of vision so they see its implications or is it above their heads? Or is it another case of negligence nestled in the usual chorus, "not yet, already?"

It pertains to "wealth and jobs creation"—your primary fiduciary duty! Are you familiar with the concept? Break it down to its lowest term so you see its essence with clarity! It's foremost in your fiduciary duty!

Cause: Elected officials should share their assessed view on the exit of Nippon investments. Please explain to us using the KISS concept its implications on "wealth and jobs creation" here. Let us know the magnitude of its adverse effects on the quality of life here. Isn't the economy about "quality of life?"

Most of our friends have hopped on airplanes heading home! Is there room to reset relations? Sadly, it's *sayonara*!

With ripped sails and questionable seaworthiness of our canoe, what then is our alternative? Is there a realistic substitute beyond lack of depth of vision and simple apprehension to see what's coming down the pike from recent contractions? Does it matter that austerity and furlough are close behind?

It pays to seriously review the implications of the Nippon investment exit. Is there anybody else after wealthy Nippon investors? It still is the economy, sonny! It pertains to quality of life of people you represent! That isn't hard to understand, is it?

The magnitude of the exit of Nippon investment would eventually show its negative effects here shortly, if not already. Its implications are dire. It would impose hardship among families here when economic opportunities consistently contract. The elected elite ought to ponder (if they have initial apprehension) the economic implications of investments exiting! It's the loss of wealth and jobs creation! Is the concept familiar or "not yet, already?"

At Issue: Exhausting guarding events as they unfold in these isles. Perplexing the attitude of indifference or despondence as if it's okay to ignore or neglect the economy heading south. It's about the quality of life of people you represent. Do you have difficulty putting this into perspective?

The elected elite must converge to trump its card on this issue. It's despicably irresponsible to treat it like tidal shift that comes and goes without notice. The impending familial hardship is serious as the wealthiest Nippon investors politely bow their last *sayonara* heading home! What economic scaffold is there to rely upon beyond feel-good ignorance?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our condolences

Yasuko and I extend to the CNMI Muslim community our condolences and heartfelt sadness on the occasion of the horrible New Zealand hate attacks. We weep in solidarity with your pain and outrage.

Yasuko and John Joyner
Kagman 3, Saipan

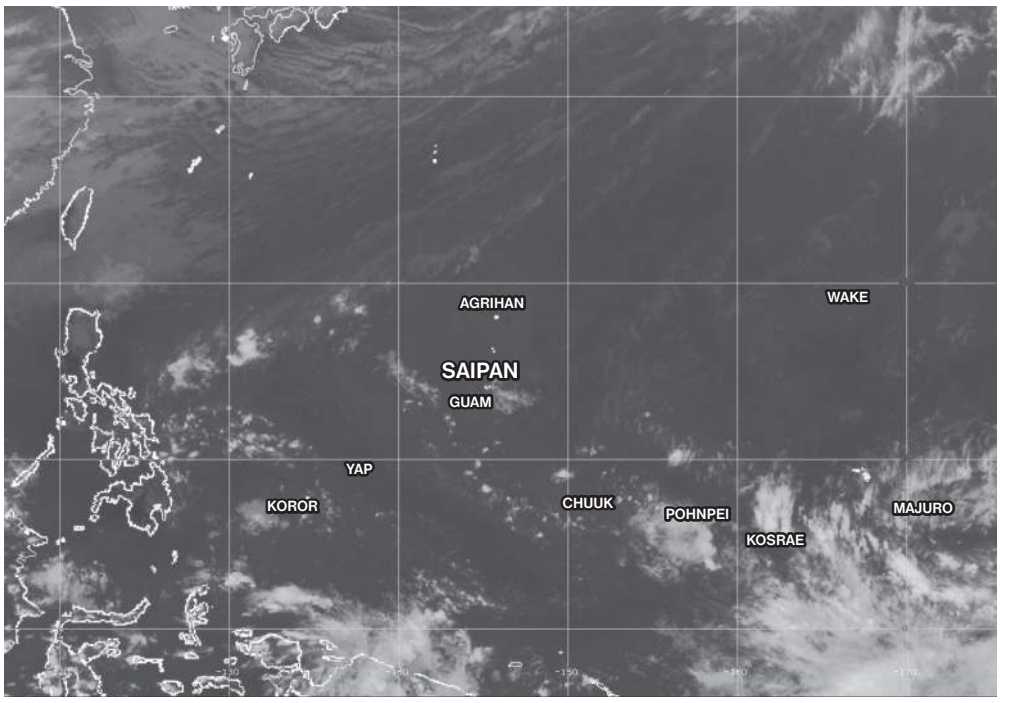
RUSSIAN THREAT!
BY JOE "WHEN BESTIES ATTACK!" FOURNIER
VLADIMIR PUTIN EXPLAINS
RUSSIA WARNS THE UNITED STATES NOT TO PLACE MISSILES IN EUROPE UNLESS IT WANTS A CUBAN MISSILE-STYLE CRISIS!
THIS WARNING SHOULD STAND AS DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP IS HIS OWN MAN, HIS OWN LEADER, AND NOT SOME PUPPET CONTROLLED BY ME!
ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fairly dry weather and moderate northeast trades persist across the Marianas this morning. Radar imagery shows spotty light showers over Guam and the CNMI and buoys around Guam show combined seas around 5 to 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	57° / 30°
Hong Kong	Showers	68° / 63°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	65° / 54°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	86° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	75° / 59°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 33°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	50° / 37°
Paris	Sunny	64° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°
Rome	Sunny	70° / 46°
Salem	Sunny	69° / 42°
San Francisco	Rain	54° / 48°
Seoul	Showers	48° / 28°
Tokyo	Showers	48° / 37°
Washington, DC	Windy	56° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:35 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.04
8:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.09
3:02 PM	LOW TIDE	0.29
8:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.08

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:12 AM	7:44 PM
Saturday	-	7:58 AM	8:42 PM
Sunday	-	8:44 AM	9:39 PM
Monday	-	9:31 AM	10:35 PM
Tuesday	-	10:18 AM	11:30 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 22, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:50pm	7:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/193	6:25pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/1596:25pm		11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174 GUM-ROR	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Friday, March 22, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: As Terlaje and Lower San Vicente
  - ❏ Water well(s) affected: As Terlaje Booster
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-6
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace ten (10) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Saturday, March 23, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Kagman Mobile Gas Station and Kagman 1
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Kagman 1, Kagman 2 and Kagman 3
  - ❏ Water well(s) affected: All Kagman Wells
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: Entire Kagman Area
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace two (2) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Sunday, March 24, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Kagman 1 and Kagman 2
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Kagman 1, Kagman 2 and Kagman 3
  - ❏ Water well(s) affected: All Kagman wells except KG-2, KG-3, KG-4, KG-10 and
  - ❏ KG-131
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: Entire Kagman Area
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven (7) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Monday, March 25, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: As Terlaje
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-6
  - ❏ • Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Tuesday, March 26, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje
  - ❏ • Power service area(s) affected: As Terlaje and Fina Sisu • Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-6 and W-8
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five (5) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje, Lower Dandan, Airport Road
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Lower Dandan and Airport Road
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-13 and A-14
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1 and Feeder 3 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Garapan Middle Road
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Upper Navy Hill
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: China Town, Upper and Lower Navy Hill, As Falape and Chalan Galaide
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-8
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace one wooden pole with a concrete pole
- **Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Susupe
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-5 and A-11
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the company Primary Source Electric to safely replace wooden poles with concrete ones. This is a continuation of CUC's ongoing restoration effort, which is aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Interfaith vigil for New Zealand mosque victims

Following the terrorist mass shootings that took place at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on March 15, the University of Guam and the interfaith community of Guam will host a "One Humanity for Peace" multi-religious prayer and chant vigil with a brief informational presentation about Islam.

The vigil will take place from 6pm to 7:30pm this Saturday, March 23, at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Lecture Hall at the University of Guam. Doors open at 5:30pm.

Those interested in attending may call 735-2850 for more information. ***(UOG)***

Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby set

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby on Mar. 30, 2019. Prizes will include $1,000 cash for first place, with remaining placement prizes to be announced. The registration fee is $100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and $10 for each additional angler. For more information, contact Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Ray Villagomez at 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Kagman High School Senior Parents' Night

KHS announces the Annual Senior Parents' Night on March 21, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the KHS cafeteria. All seniors and their parents are expected to attend. The agenda will include:

- Graduation updates: What's the plan!
- What ifs...
- NMC presents
- Progress report distribution for seniors ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

Soledad excels in a male-dominated workplace

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Rose Soledad, who oversees the CNMI operations of telecommunications company IT&E as its general manager, finds solace in working alongside rather than competing with men.

Soledad, who has been with the company since 1992, is not uncomfortable about being in a male-dominated workplace such as telecommunications. In fact, she is used to that because she started her career in the CNMI surrounded by dominant men. She was, in fact, brought to the island in 1989 by former DHL founder Larry Hillbloom and former House speaker Joe Lifoifoi because of her finance background.

"So I started my career here working with men," she said. "My work is basically overseeing the day-to-day operations of the company. …There is never a dull day at work as something new happens."

Working at IT&E where she manages male network engineers or employees "has been good because I am always looking for efficiencies and, instead of competing with them, working with them creates far better results," she said.

As for working with strong women in the company, she believes that has only added growth to her career and personal life.

"We call this group the 'empowered women group.' People refer to our group that because here we are building our careers in a male-dominated industry and it is harmonious relationship," she said.

Soledad said she has always been attuned to the needs of IT&E subscribers and the biggest testament of this was when Super Typhoon Yutu hit in October 2018.

"We are typhoon-stricken islands, that is why we buried out [wires] since the early '90s and whenever there is a typhoon, your phones are up."

"This company used to be a Verizon company and we basically adopted a lot of the emergency policies but localized it to tailor it to the needs of the islands. We have policies in place for every typhoon condition," she said

Rose Soledad, who oversees the CNMI operations of telecommunications company IT&E as its general manager, finds solace in working alongside rather than competing with men.

BEA CABRERA

That means that for every typhoon that comes to the islands, IT&E's objective is to ensure that all lines are 100 percent up and running, she said.

According to Soledad, time management is key to having a good career and healthy family life. "My husband and I are on island right now as our son is attending university. …If I don't have board meetings, lunch breaks are always with my husband and it has been like that for the past 27 years. To me, having personal time with my husband is my mid-break, so I go back to work feeling refreshed in the afternoon.

"We actually work in the same company but we have a rule that we will never talk about work.

"We also like to travel with our son when time permits," she added

Over five years ago, Soledad found out she had cancer. She underwent chemotherapy treatment and the things that kept her going were her belief in God and the love of those around her.

"Actually, nobody knew I had cancer at first because I was always working. …I came out of it with a positive outlook because of my strong faith, love, and support of family and friends.

Citing her own experience, Soledad advises women over 40 to get themselves checked.

"Currently, I am well and taking good care of myself. I run in the morning and after work. I recently ran a half-marathon. …I don't run fast but it is important to be active. …Aside from staying fit, running is my stress reliever," she added.

As a wife, mother and leader, Soledad also has a passion for mentoring. "I really like teaching and I've been doing it for the past 30 years."

"In our company, there a lot of high potential for highly productive men and women. I encourage the younger ones to go to school and finish their degree and, if your path is telecommunications or in whatever career, don't just do what you're asked to do but you also have to branch out and learn other things so you can maximize your full potential and, in the process, grow constantly," she said

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	026 K 35	Holiday Dr., Dandan, Saipan	MINIMUM BID :	$	60,000.00
LOT NO.:	002 G 245	Granada Dr., Kagman II, Saipan	MINIMUM BID :	$	20,000.00
LOT NO.:	005 I 514	Ahu Dr., Koblerville, Saipan	MINIMUM BID:	$	50,000.00
LOT NO.:	008 T 239	Marpo Heights, Tinian	MINIMUM BID:	$	73,000.00
LOT NO.:	107 T 139	Carolinas Heights, Tinian	MINIMUM BID:	$	35,000.00
LOT NO.:	347 R 95	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	59,000.00
LOT NO.:	330 R 293	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	42,000.00
LOT NO.:	347 R 164	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	46,000.00
LOT NO.:	330 R 149	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	49,000.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on April 8, 2019, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for purchase/lease on each property shall be $ (please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
   a. Credit card payments totaling $1,000.00 USD, or more, will be charged and additional Three (3)% fee to recover merchant credit card service fees. This fee does not apply to "debit" card payments.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
8. Lease option. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following terms and conditions:
   a. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be fifty-five (55) years.
   b. A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
      i. No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
      ii. Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
      iii. Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
      iv. Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2019.

S/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

UK's May asks a wary EU to delay Brexit until June 30

LONDON (AP)—Exactly 1,000 days after Britain voted to leave the European Union, and nine days before it is scheduled to walk out the door, Prime Minister Theresa May hit the pause button Wednesday, asking the bloc to postpone the U.K.'s departure until June 30.

EU leaders, who are exasperated by Britain's Brexit melodrama, will only grant the extension if May can win the U.K. Parliament's approval next week for her twice-rejected Brexit deal. Otherwise, the U.K. is facing a chaotic "no-deal" departure from the bloc within days, or a much longer delay that May says she will not allow while she is in power.

May, who has spent two and a half years trying to lead Britain out of the EU, said it was "a matter of great personal regret" that she had to seek a delay to Brexit.

In a televised statement from 10 Downing St., May said she shared the frustration felt by many Britons who have "had enough" of endless Brexit debates and infighting—though she did not accept a role in causing it. Instead, she blamed Parliament for the deadlock, and warned that if lawmakers did not back her deal it would cause "irreparable damage to public trust."

"It is high time we made a decision," May said.

In a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk, May acknowledged that the Brexit process "clearly will not be completed before 29 March, 2019"—the date fixed in law two years ago for Britain's departure.

May asked to delay Britain's withdrawal until June 30, and said she would set out her reasons to EU leaders at a summit in Brussels on Thursday.

Her longshot plan is to hold a third vote in Parliament on her deal next week, then use the EU-granted extension to pass the legislation needed for an orderly departure from the EU.

"As prime minister I am not prepared to delay Brexit any further than June 30," May told the House of Commons—a hint she could quit if Britain is forced to accept a longer pause.

Tusk said he thought a short delay to Brexit "will be possible, but it would be conditional on a positive vote on the withdrawal agreement in the House of Commons."

DOCOMO PACIFIC (SAIPAN), INC. has openings for:

DOCOMO PACIFIC (SAIPAN), INC. has openings for:

One (1) techZone Supervisor

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent), two (2) years of experience in job offered or two (2) years of experience as an inventory technician for cellular phones and devices, and six (6) months of experience using Microsoft Excel and MindBill Resource Manager software.

Duties: Supervises techZone technicians in programming and activation of cellular phones and devices, headsets and accessories utilizing knowledge of their features and understanding of all applications/protocols required for cell phones, headsets and accessories. Supervises techZone technicians in performing repairs and upgrades of cellular phones and devices, headsets and accessories, including disassembling, repairing replacing parts, reassembling units and testing repaired cellular phones and devices, headsets and accessories, and upgrades of operating systems for cellular phones and devices operating systems. Performs programming, activation, repairs and upgrades for cellular phones and devices, headsets and accessories. Determines work schedules and assignments for techZone technicians. Ensures customer issues are resolved in a timely manner. Assists techZone Managers in overseeing all aspects of techZone operations. Conducts and/or coordinates training for new and existing techZone technicians. Tracks and monitors inventory and prepares inventory reports. Prepares daily, weekly and monthly service reports. Utilizes Microsoft Excel software, MindBill Resource Manager software and other tools in performing job duties.

One (1) CATV Headend Bench Technician

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent), two (2) years of experience as a CATV Headend/Bench Technician or Bench Technician, and six (6) months of experience using Arris CHP MAX Headend Optics Platform Receiver hardware, Arris CHP MAX Headend Optics Platform Transmitter hardware, Cisco Prisma Optics Platform Receiver, Cisco Prisma Optics Platform Transmitter and Cisco Local Craft Interface software.

Duties: Performs regular maintenance, repair, testing alignment, alterations and adjustment on all Cable TV ("CATV') headend electronic equipment by using various telecommunication test equipment and tools. Optimizes nodes for Arris CHP Max Headend Optic Platform Transmitter/Receiver and Cisco system. Assembles, aligns, repairs and maintains satellite dishes and configures satellite receivers/decoders parameters, and installs updated software. Performs RF signal alignment on analog and digital CATV systems at the headend on a regular basis. Performs regular proof of performance and other headend testing, documentation and reporting in accordance with FCC rules. Monitors and analyzes network downstream and upstream carriers on a regular basis and performs ingress mitigation, when necessary. Performs all task related to the hybrid cable, fiber coaxial system's operation and maintenance. Repairs faulty equipment such as defective and damaged optical transmitter/receiver, AC and DC power supply, RF amplifiers, encoder, satellite decoder, modulator, demodulator and other associated equipment. Utilizes Arris CHP MAX Headend Optics Platform Receiver hardware, Arris CHP MAX Headend Optics Platform Transmitter hardware, Cisco Prisma Optics Platform Receiver, Cisco Prisma Optics Platform Transmitter and Cisco Local Craft Interface software in performing job duties.

One (1) Maintenance Technician

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent), one (1) year of experience in job offered or Fiber Technician and one (1) year of experience using Cisco Nodes hardware, Scientific Atlanta amplifiers hardware or other broad band signal amplifier, line extender amplifier and CATV passive devices.

Duties: Responsible for all tasks related to the Hybrid Fiber Coaxial system's operation and maintenance. Performs preventive and demand maintenance tasks from the output of the headend, through the fiber optic distribution system to the node, through the trunk system to the distribution system, through the distribution tap to all terminal points with a drop system both upstream and downstream. Responds to area outages and problems. Responsible for all tasks associate with the Hybrid Fiber Coaxial optical, trunk, and distribution system. Troubleshoot and repair area outages and poor reception problems. Performs return path ingress mitigation. Performs upstream and downstream sweep alignment. Diagnoses HFC leakage and repair. Performs mainline CATV construction. Performs mainline active and passive devices installation. Installs standby power supply and tests/operation and maintenance of the Alpha XM3 power supplies. Locates underground HFC infrastructure using a cable locator or a ground penetrating radar and marks the depth and location for clearance purpose and underground trenching build. Performs preventive maintenance on CATV infrastructure to include coaxial cabling and fiber optic equipment. Ensures FCC compliance testing and compliance with OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures. Utilizes Cisco Nodes hardware, Scientific Atlanta amplifiers, line extender amplifiers hardware and CATV passive devices in performing job duties.

One (1) Field Technician

Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Field or Engineering Technician or closely related job for telecommunications or cable company.

Duties: Install new premises wiring, disconnect drop line, de-install "wreck-out" of drop line systems, and re-connect previous customers. Install advance services such as high speed internet, Digital, and VOIP phone service. Troubleshoot and repair all problems occurring within the CATV drop system from the output of the distribution tap to all terminal points within a drop system. Understand the proper operation of customer premises equipment such as analog boxes, High speed internet modems and be able to educate customers on its proper use. Monitor for and document CATV leakage. Create CLI leak reports and repairs leakage as required. Lead crew as assigned. Repair sources of CATV leakage from distribution tap to CPE in customers home. Perform audit of questionable connections to distribution taps. Perform sales of new services or upgrades of existing customers. Maintain accurate records of daily tasks. Work safely and follow all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.

One (1) Fiber Technician

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience in job offered, Field Technician or Cable TV technician.

Duties: Assemble and install data and telephone communication lines, wiring, switching equipment, wiring frames, power apparatus, computer systems, networks, and related communication equipment. Set up service for customers, installing, connecting, testing and/or adjusting equipment. Run wires between components and to outside cable systems, connecting them to wires from telephone poles or underground cable accesses. Note differences in wire and cable colors so that work can be performed correctly. Test connections to ensure that power supplies are adequate and that communications links function. Inspect telecommunications equipment to identify problems. Climb poles and ladders, use truck-mounted booms, and enter areas such as manholes and cable vaults to install, maintain, or inspect equipment. Test repaired, newly installed, or updated equipment to ensure that it functions properly and conforms to specifications, using test equipment and observation. Gather information about work conditions or locations and collaborate with other workers to locate and correct malfunctions. Must be able to operate a Fusion Splicer, Stealth Sweep System, MPEG Analyzer, and Spectrum Analyzer. Must be able to test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment and must be able to perform troubleshooting of the Headend. Must possess knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System. Observe all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures. Perform other related duties, as assigned.

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Nation

Pelosi's no fan of impeachment: Just ask Clinton and Bush

WASHINGTON (AP)—The day after Democrats swept to power, Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi stood before the cameras and declared impeachment was "off the table." That was November 2006.

More than a decade later, Pelosi, again facing a restive left flank but one ready to confront President Donald Trump, says she's "not for impeachment."

It's a remarkably consistent stance from Pelosi, who voted against the impeachment of Bill Clinton, tamped down efforts to impeach George W. Bush and now is leading the House through another moment when a vocal part of the electorate wants to end a presidency.

Pelosi

Pelosi's reluctance to launch impeachment proceedings infuriates the left flank and is testing her ability to hold restive House Democrats in line. But it also shows the political calculation of a seasoned leader who knows "public sentiment is everything," as she often says, and for now at least, Americans seem to prefer investigations to impeachment.

As Washington awaits special counsel Robert Mueller's report, the Democratic leader knows her party has little to gain and much to lose if they launch headlong into impeachment proceedings that are seen as partisan. House Republicans learned as much when then-Speaker Newt Gingrich's majority lost seats after their long campaign to impeach Clinton. When it comes to Trump, she recently told The Washington Post, "he's just not worth it."

"So many of you have said to me: 'Why are you saying this now?'" she told reporters later. "Because I have said it almost every day. But if I frame it that way, it gets more attention."

Rick Tyler, a GOP strategist and former Gingrich spokesman, says Pelosi has been a "keen observer" of history during her 30 years in the House and understands "impeachments are an inherently political process."

Mom admits plotting girl's death: 'I wanted her to go away'

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP)—The mother of a girl who was raped, murdered and dismembered testified Wednesday that she helped plot the attack and carry it out, telling her daughter before her death that "I can't help you anymore."

Appearing to smirk at times, Sara Packer calmly recounted how she watched her boyfriend sexually assault her daughter, 14-year-old Grace Packer, then strangle her in a hot attic outside Philadelphia. She said Grace looked at her as she was being choked to death, and Sara Packer took her hand and told her it was "OK to go."

"Grace had become, for lack of a better word, a non-entity," Sara Packer said in a monotone. "She just didn't exist anymore. I wanted her to go away."

Sara Packer's testimony came at a sentencing hearing for Jacob Sullivan, who pleaded guilty to rape, first-degree murder and other offenses in Grace's death. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Sullivan. The defense is seeking life in prison.

Sara Packer has agreed to plead guilty to first-degree murder in exchange for a life sentence.

On Wednesday, she told the jury that her daughter was a discipline problem—a "very difficult child" —and she wanted her dead. She admitted she hated Grace, shared a rape-murder fantasy with Sullivan, and helped hack up her daughter's body and dispose of it months later.

Bucks County District Attorney Matthew Weintraub told the jury that he agreed to a life sentence for Sara Packer in exchange for her confession and guilty plea because the physical evidence against her was weak, because it was Sullivan who raped and killed Grace, and because her crimes did not qualify for the death penalty.

But Weintraub made it clear what he thought of Packer.

"Is it fair to say you are an utter and miserable failure at being a worthwhile human being?" he thundered at her.

Relatives testified about the impact of the killing early Wednesday.

"It sickens me to know that Grace was abused, tortured and literally thrown away like she was a piece of trash," said her cousin, Karie Heisserer, with whom Grace lived for a time in 2015. "Grace is in a better place now, free from evil and pain."

ACROSS THE NATION

Road rage suspect kills Washington state deputy in gun fight

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy was killed in central Washington state and a police officer was shot and wounded after they exchanged gunfire with a road rage driving suspect, authorities said Wednesday. The driver was also shot and later died at a hospital. The events unfolded Tuesday evening when the two officers tried to stop the suspect's vehicle after authorities received a complaint about the motorist's driving, said Ellensburg Police Chief Ken Wade. The suspect, who has not been identified, was chased by police until the driver stopped the car near the town of Kittitas. He got out and exchanged gunfire with the sheriff's deputy and the police officer, Wade said. "It was reported as a road-rage type event, with erratic driving on the part of the suspect," said Wade, whose office is investigating the incident. Sheriff's deputy Ryan Thompson, 42, was killed and Kittitas police officer Benito Chavez, 22, was shot in the leg and suffered a shattered femur, Wade said.

Police release more records in Las Vegas massacre

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Accounts of Las Vegas police collecting bloody bullet fragments at hospitals and detectives tracing weapons purchases in five states were among the records released Wednesday from the investigation of the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. There were no new revelations among the more than 750 pages of documents, and authorities have not determined a motive for the 2017 carnage that killed 58 people and injured more than 850 others at an outdoor concert. Police and the FBI have each concluded investigations, saying 64-year-old shooter Stephen Paddock acted alone and was not inspired by any outside group or ideology. FBI profilers determined Paddock—a high-stakes video poker player and former accountant—might have been seeking infamy and trying to follow in the criminal footsteps of his bank robber father, who made the agency's most-wanted list in the 1960s. Police said the 35th batch of material released since May under court order in a public records lawsuit will be the last.

Catholic priest accused of groping woman during last rites

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest has been arrested on a misdemeanor assault charge after he was accused of groping a woman in home hospice care while giving her last rites. The Rev. Gerold Langsch, of Austin, was arrested Thursday and charged with assault by contact stemming from the Oct. 5 encounter. The 75-year-old priest is free on $15,000 bond. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a year in jail and fined up to $4,000. Police contend in the arrest affidavit that the woman was in hospice care for complications from diabetes when Lansch went to her home to administer the sacrament of anointing the sick, a sacrament of absolution. The woman, who is still alive, reported that Langsch first anointed her chest with holy water, then began to apply lotion, massaging a breast, pinching a nipple and asking "Does that feel good?" He then tried to slip his hand inside her diaper but was unable to. The woman later told police the priest's actions left her in shock, uncomfortable, confused and feeling like, she told police, a "nasty, dirty piece of meat."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-DOF-060

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 18, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS ON **MARCH 08, 2019**.

ALL OUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY VIA FACSIMILE TO **(670) 664-1515** OR VIA EMAIL TO procurement@cnmidof.net **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 05, 2019**. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE. ALL QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 19-001

COMMERCIAL RIDING MOWERS
NMC CREES SAIPAN, ROTA and TINIAN RESEARCH STATION

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of New Commercial Riding Mowers for CREES Saipan, Rota and Tinian Research Station.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. 0, commencing Monday (March 11th, 2019) between the hours of 9: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award # 2018-31100 (Regular)

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 09, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. 0, AsTerlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.
For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via email or hand delivery to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Robert Suzuki
NMC Acting Procurement Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean-Director, NMC CREES

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 from 9:00am to 11:30am at the Pacific Islands Club, Annex Room San Antonio Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   a) Roll Call
   b) Presence of a Quorum
   c) Adoption of Agenda
   d) Adoption of Minutes - January 03, 2019

II. Election of Officers

III. State Systemic Improvement Plan
   A. Phase III Year 3

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029/3012. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/
Carla Torres
Chairperson

/s/
Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

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Off The Wall

Man uses 'nude mannequins' to send message to neighbor

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) —Jason Windus gave his California neighbor something to look at during a dispute over the height of a backyard fence —naked mannequins having a garden party.

Four of the fashion dummies are seated in wicker chairs around a matching table. Another is standing with its arms over its head and shamrocks over on its breasts.

A hand-scrawled sign on top of a nearby wooden barrel reads, "Reserved seat for the nosey neighbor that complained about my fence to the city."

"They wanted me to tear down my fence to see inside my yard, and now they get to," Windus said.

Windus said he was building a 6-foot (2-meter) fence at his home in Santa Rosa so he could let his dogs out in his backyard when he got a letter from the city saying it violated an ordinance limiting such barriers along sidewalks to 3 feet (1 meter).

AP

In this photo taken Monday, March 18, 2019, a woman stops to photograph a display of mannequins in Santa Rosa, Calif.

"It was a 6-foot fence, like everybody else's around here," Windus said Tuesday.

Windus asked why he was being singled out and was told City Hall was responding to a complaint.

Windus, who owns a moving company, said the mannequins he had picked up from a clothing store came to mind as he pondered how to send a message to the neighbor.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

LA-area pursuit suspect breakdances before surrendering

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Law-breaking turned into breakdancing at the end of a Southern California vehicle pursuit. TV news helicopters were overhead Tuesday night when a suspect pursued by the California Highway Patrol finally surrendered, but broke out into a 10-second dance before being handcuffed. The pursuit began in the Calabasas area and headed east on U.S. 101 into Los Angeles, then north on Interstate 405 where the motorist exited the freeway in the San Fernando Valley. A CHP cruiser finally bumped the car and spun it out. The driver got out with hands up but did not appear to be fully complying with officers pointing guns at him. As the scene became illuminated by a law enforcement helicopter's spotlight, the driver suddenly busted a move before being busted.

Careless loading of cargo containers sinks ship in Iran port

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian state TV says careless loading of cargo has capsized a ship in the southern port of Bandar Abbas, sending port workers scrambling to retrieve any of the 153 containers that were suddenly submerged. The report says only one Indian seaman aboard the Comoros-owned LS Star was injured in the foot in the incident on Monday. Mehdi Haghshenas, deputy chief of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, told the TV the ship was not being loaded properly and that there was "poor coordination between the ship's first officer and the crane operator" lifting the containers on board. He says the ship has a 14-member crew, all from India. There were no further details and there was no immediate estimate of damages.

Court: Middle finger protected by the constitution

TAYLOR, Mich. (AP) — When it comes to the middle finger, police might need a thicker skin. A federal appeals court says a Michigan woman's constitutional rights were violated when she was handed a speeding ticket after giving the finger to a suburban Detroit officer in 2017. The decision means a lawsuit by Debra Cruise-Gulyas can proceed. In a 3-0 decision Wednesday, the court said Taylor Officer Matthew Minard "should have known better," even if the driver was rude. Minard stopped Cruise-Gulyas and wrote her a ticket for a lesser violation. But when that stop was over, Cruise-Gulyas raised her middle finger. Minard pulled her over again and changed the ticket to a more serious speeding offense. Cruise-Gulyas sued, saying her free-speech rights and her rights against unreasonable seizure were violated.

Dozens of rattlesnakes removed from under Texas home

ALBANY, Texas (AP) — A Texas homeowner who reported seeing "a few" snakes under his home actually had dozens of rattlesnakes living beneath his house. Big Country Snake Removal, which was called in to help, said the homeowner crawled underneath his home after strong winds disrupted his cable television service. He saw a few snakes, quickly crawled out and contacted the snake removal company. Workers later pulled 45 rattlesnakes from underneath the home near Albany, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) west of Dallas, according to the company's Facebook page. Video shows numerous large snakes coiled up as workers use long poles to pull the animals out. Snakes will begin slithering out from underneath Texas homes as the weather warms up, increasing the risk of snakebites, said Nathan Hawkins, the owner of Big Country Snake Removal. "They'll start emerging, and then what they're going to do is they're going to start trying to find food. And then they're going to start breeding," Hawkins said. "A lot of people are getting snakes in their yard, and it's because basically the habitat has been destroyed around the housing developments."

Science & Technology

Tech Q&A: Sometimes computer security can hurt you

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Security is a big concern for all of us, but mostly we worry about keeping intruders out—out of our computers, our phones and our internet connections.

What if the problem were reversed, and someone was trying to keep us out? As it turns out, they are.

In December, I was the victim of a "false positive"—the name for what happens when someone's computer security software blocks something innocent instead of something harmful.

My "false positive" occurred when I used my credit card to buy a $7.45 children's book ("Mister Dog" by Margaret Wise Brown) from Fishpond.com. The firm, a New Zealand-based seller of books, electronics and more, ships to U.S. customers from a California distribution center.

When the book hadn't arrived by February, I e-mailed the company's customer-service team and was told, "We can confirm that your order was flagged by our fraud team and subsequently canceled in error."

I was surprised because my credit card history is good. Then I began thinking about how e-commerce security software might view me. If it could tap into databases of recent security breaches, it might see that I had been peripherally involved in one. A few months ago, my bank replaced my debit card following a data breach at a coffee-shop company whose stores I frequent. Maybe the Fishpond.com security software had flagged the coffee-shop incident as a risk—for all it knew, a thief might have stolen all my charge cards, including the one I was using to buy "Mister Dog."

So maybe Fishpond.com was just being careful, and I should be impressed. Besides, Fishpond seemed willing to correct their mistake. They asked that I place a new book order, then e-mail customer service a copy of the new order number and "a scanned copy of a current utility bill with your name and address as proof of delivery address."

I did that. Fishpond.com promptly e-mailed to say: "We will ask our fraud team to review it. If they are satisfied with the information supplied, you will be able to create a new order online."

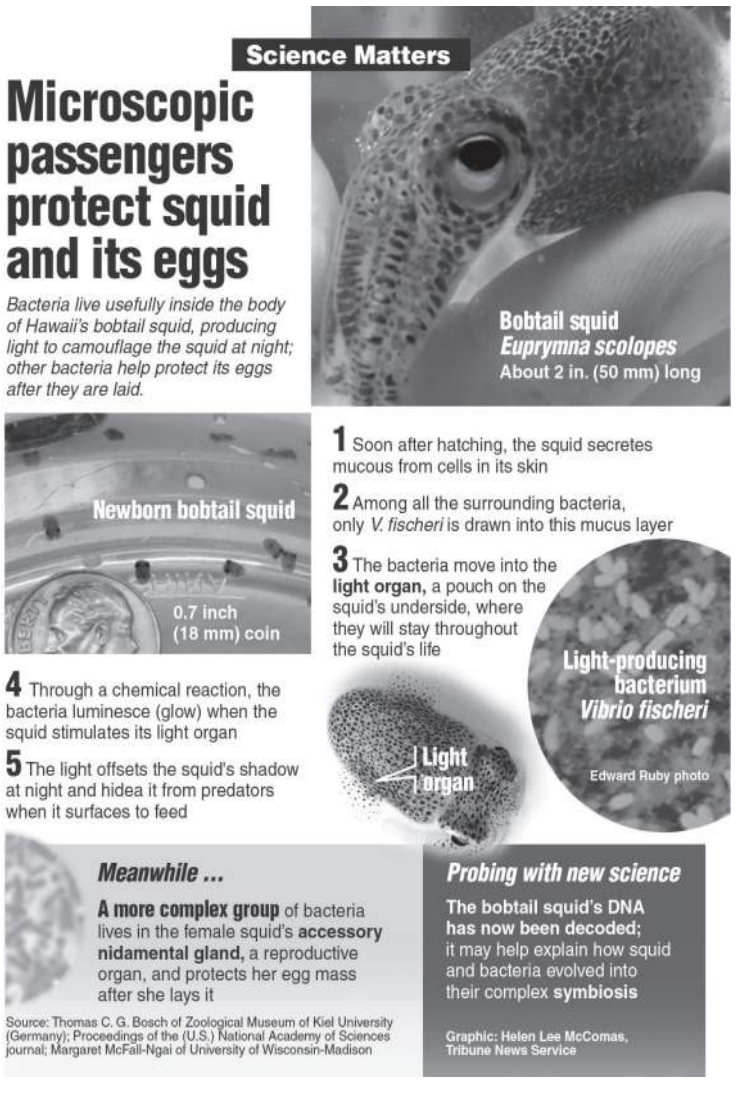
I heard nothing more, so in early March I e-mailed Fishpond again. I was told that my information had been passed on for review, and that I should allow one to two working days for further updates. Further, I shouldn't place a new order until I received confirmation from them.

That was two weeks ago. I still don't know if my credit card will be accepted. If it isn't, will that information go into someone's financial database and affect me in the future?

Who's at fault here? E-commerce security software everywhere that isn't up to the task. Experts say that, when in doubt, such software cancels a transaction. A 2017 study by the Merchant Risk Council, a trade association, says this happens in 2.6 percent of all online orders because retailers have made their fraud detection software more restrictive (see tinyurl.com/yy-9c9yc5).

Another expert estimates false positives cause more than $8 billion in lost sales annually for U.S. retailers (see tinyurl.com/ycso4ecl).

It's unclear whether consumers can do anything about the problem of false positives. But something needs to change before that security software does real financial harm.


Science Matters
Microscopic passengers protect squid and its eggs
Bacteria live usefully inside the body of Hawaii's bobtail squid, producing light to camouflage the squid at night; other bacteria help protect its eggs after they are laid.
Bobtail squid
Euprymna scolopes
About 2 in. (50 mm) long
Newborn bobtail squid
0.7 inch (18 mm) coin
1 Soon after hatching, the squid secretes mucous from cells in its skin
2 Among all the surrounding bacteria, only V. fischeri is drawn into this mucus layer
3 The bacteria move into the light organ, a pouch on the squid's underside, where they will stay throughout the squid's life
4 Through a chemical reaction, the bacteria luminesce (glow) when the squid stimulates its light organ
5 The light offsets the squid's shadow at night and hidea it from predators when it surfaces to feed
Light organ
Light-producing bacterium
Vibrio fischeri
Edward Ruby photo
Meanwhile ...
A more complex group of bacteria lives in the female squid's accessory nidamental gland, a reproductive organ, and protects her egg mass after she lays it
Probing with new science
The bobtail squid's DNA has now been decoded; it may help explain how squid and bacteria evolved into their complex symbiosis
Source: Thomas C. G. Bosch of Zoological Museum of Kiel University (Germany); Proceedings of the (U.S.) National Academy of Sciences journal; Margaret McFall-Ngai of University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

10 emerging writers receive $50,000 Whiting grants

NEW YORK (AP)—Poet Tyree Daye will finally have some time to really write, and not think too much about money.

"I can take the summer off and pay down some debts," Daye, from Youngsville, North Carolina, said Wednesday night after accepting his $50,000 Whiting Award, given annually by the Whiting Foundation to 10 emerging artists.

Established in 1985, the Whitings have been given to such future literary stars as Tony Kushner, Colson Whitehead and Lydia Davis. This year's recipients are a mix of poets, playwrights and prose writers, some not yet published, some with a handful of works out. Winners besides Daye include poets Vanessa Angelica Villarreal, Kayleb Rae Candrilli and nonfiction writers Terese Marie Mailhot and Nadia Owusu. Others honored were fiction writers Nafissa Thompson-Spires and Merritt Tierce and playwrights Lauren Yee and Michael R. Jackson, who said the Whiting would help him focus on the production of "A Strange Loop," premiering in May at Playwrights Horizons in Times Square.

"It will also help me with rent and other little details," Jackson said.

Wednesday night's ceremony was held at the New-York Historical Society in Manhattan, with hundreds of writers, editors and other members of the publishing community. The keynote speaker was 2009 Whiting winner Adam Johnson, who later told The Associated Press that he had been out mountain climbing and, when he reached the top, had enough of a signal on his phone to receive an email notifying him of his prize. At the time, he was working on what became the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Orphan Master's Son." He and his wife were raising three small children.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Court reviews arrest request on K-pop singer Jung Joon-young

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — K-pop singer Jung Joon-young was attending a South Korean court hearing Thursday on whether a warrant will be issued for his arrest on allegations he illegally shared sexually explicit videos of women taken without their knowledge or consent. He told reporters at the Seoul Central District Court that he was sorry and apologized again to the victims and to "everyone who has showed affection for me." People involved in scandals in South Korea often issue public apologies even as they maintain their innocence. Jung was questioned by police last week about allegations that he secretly filmed his sexual encounters and shared them in private group chats with his friends. Police are also investigating another K-pop star, Seungri, who soared to international stardom as a member of the group Big Bang, over suspicions that he attempted to arrange unlawful sexual services for his business investors. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency requested an arrest warrant for Jung on Monday through state prosecutors. The court's decision is expected Thursday night or early Friday. The scandal has caused uproar in South Korea where women are increasingly speaking out against what they describe as a culture of misogyny and the rampant spread of intimate photos and videos taken by hidden cameras, which they say have women living in constant anxiety and distress.

Jung

Ariana Grande, Childish Gambino to headline Lollapalooza

CHICAGO (AP) — Ariana Grande, Childish Gambino, Twenty One Pilots and The Strokes will headline this summer's Lollapalooza music festival in Chicago. Festival organizers announced the lineup for the four-day event on Wednesday, saying more than 170 acts will play on eight stages in Grant Park along Lake Michigan. Other performers include Tame Impala, Flume, J Balvin, The Chainsmokers, Janelle Monae, Lil Wayne and recent Album of the Year Grammy winner Kacey Musgraves. The festival runs August 1-4. Founder Perry Farrell launched Lollapalooza as a touring festival in 1991. It's been held in Chicago since 2005 and attracts more than 100,000 people a day. The Jane's Addiction lead singer will play with Perry Farrell's Kind Heaven Orchestra. There also will be performances by Slash, Shaquille O'Neal and Tenacious D.

Huffman's court date pushed back in admissions scam case

BOSTON (AP) — A judge has granted a request to push back actress Felicity Huffman's court appearance in Boston on charges that she participated in a college admissions cheating scam. Huffman was initially scheduled to appear in Boston federal court on March 29 along with fellow actress Lori Loughlin and other parents. But a judge on Wednesday moved Huffman's hearing to April 3. Huffman's Boston lawyer requested the delay, saying he would be out of town. Huffman was among 50 people charged in the scheme in which wealthy parents allegedly bribed college coaches and other insiders to get their children into some of the nation's most selective schools. Huffman is accused of paying $15,000 that she disguised as a charitable donation so that her daughter could take part in the entrance-exam cheating scam.

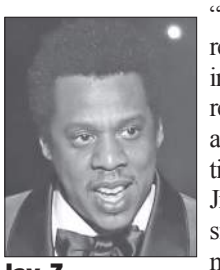
Books on slavery, prison system win literary prizes

NEW YORK (AP) — Books on slavery, the prison system and the Harlem Renaissance are among this year's winners of J. Anthony Lukas prizes, named for the late author and journalist. Shane Bauer's "American Prison: Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment" won the $10,000 Lukas Book Prize for writing that combines "literary grace," deep research and social impact. Two books won the $25,000 Lukas Work-In-Progress Awards: Maurice Chammah's "Let the Lord Sort Them" and Steven Dudley's "Mara: The Making of the MS-13." Andrew Delbanco's "The War Before the War," a history of fugitive slaves; and Jeffrey C. Stewart's biography of Harlem Renaissance leader Alain Locke, "The New Negro," each won $10,000 Mark Lynton History prizes. The Columbia Journalism School and the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard announced the awards Wednesday.

Songs by Jay-Z, Lauper being added to Recording Registry

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Songs performed by Jay-Z, Cyndi Lauper and a Robert F. Kennedy speech are among 25 recordings being inducted to the National Recording Registry. The Library of Congress announced Wednesday that "La Bamba," ''Gunsmoke" and "Hair" are some of the titles tapped for preservation this year. The national library chose a few more memorable titles including Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," Earth, Wind & Fire's "September" and Sam & Dave's "Soul Man." The registry is adding Kennedy's recorded speech after Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 assassination — two months before Kennedy was killed. Curtis Mayfield's "Superfly," Lauper's "She's So Unusual" and Jay-Z's "Blueprint" album are being added. Other songs being added include Nina Simon's "Mississippi Goddam," Sylvester's "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" and "Schoolhouse Rock!" The library selects titles for preservation because of their cultural and historic importance to the American soundscape.

Lauper



Jay-Z

Kennedy

Dad ignores lice infestation found in daughter's hair

DEAR ABBY: I take care of two girls. I have never asked for money from their dad. Because they are poor, I go to great lengths to make sure they get the same advantages as everyone else.

I took the girls to the hair salon because I wanted them to feel pretty. When it was the youngest girl's turn, the stylist found lice in her hair! She was at what they call an "infestation period." After that it's an infection and then baldness.

I went to their father and asked about the lice. He knew the entire time that she had lice and did not warn me or my family. Abby, he knowingly put my loved ones at risk! He isn't a good parent and doesn't make the youngest shower or take lice treatments. I know he doesn't care about the lice, so he's probably making her go to school despite the lice policy. What should I do?

INFESTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INFESTED: Among the "joys" of parenting is ensuring that one's children practice proper hygiene and their medical problems are treated. Father of the year this man isn't.

Of course he should have warned you so you could caution your children. He should also be watching his children more closely to be sure they shower regularly. Keep an eye on him, because he may be neglecting his girls in other ways. Could he be unaware that a head lice infestation can be treated? Because you are concerned about the girls' welfare, perhaps the school should be alerted.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as many as 12 million lice infestations occur in the United States each year, and they are NOT caused by poor hygiene. While they may be inconvenient and cause severe itching, the condition is treatable, and they do not generally cause baldness.

According to kidshealth.org, head lice are "spread mainly through head-to-head contact, but sharing clothing, bed linens, combs, brushes and hats also can pass them along. Kids are most prone to catching lice because they tend to have close physical contact with each other and share personal items."

DEAR ABBY: I'm the product of my father's infidelity. My mother, who was 19, abandoned me. My grandmother took me in and raised me. I grew up very poor, but I made it. I got my college education plus a master's degree.

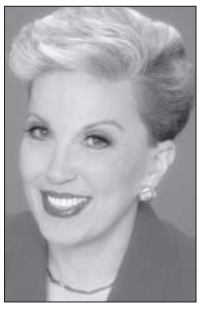
Actually, I think my biological mother did me a favor by leaving me because she's not a good person. She is now very ill, with only months to live. One of my half-sisters contacted me last night to let me know.

I don't hate her. I just do not feel anything for her. I'm 50 now, and she has never been a part of my life. I'm not sure if I should go and see her before she dies.

UNSURE OF IT

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

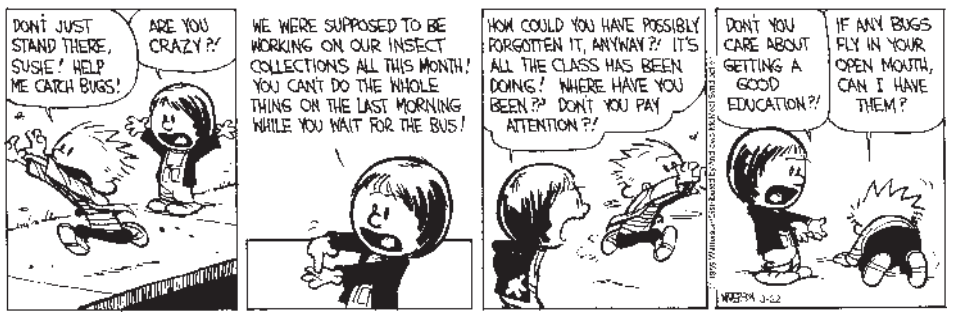
DEAR UNSURE OF IT: Your half-sister may have contacted you to give you closure before your mother dies, or because your mother asked her to. If you have ANY questions you would like answered, you should go. Having never met your mother, I can't judge whether she's "not a good person" or simply someone who made terrible decisions and got on the wrong path when she was still a teenager. And I'm not sure you should judge her either, until after you have had a conversation with her.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

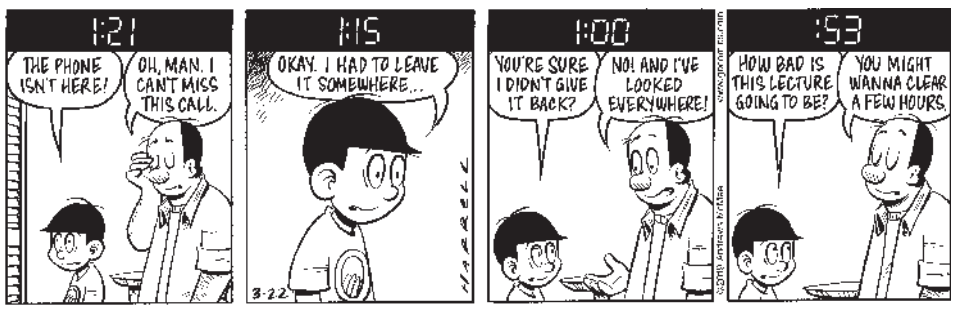

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, SUSIE! HELP ME CATCH BUGS!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING ON OUR INSECT COLLECTIONS ALL THIS MONTH! YOU CAN'T DO THE WHOLE THING ON THE LAST MORNING WHILE YOU WAIT FOR THE BUS!
HOW COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY FORGOTTEN IT, ANYWAY?! IT'S ALL THE CLASS HAS BEEN DOING! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! DON'T YOU PAY ATTENTION?!
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION?!
IF ANY BUGS FLY IN YOUR OPEN MOUTH, CAN I HAVE THEM?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

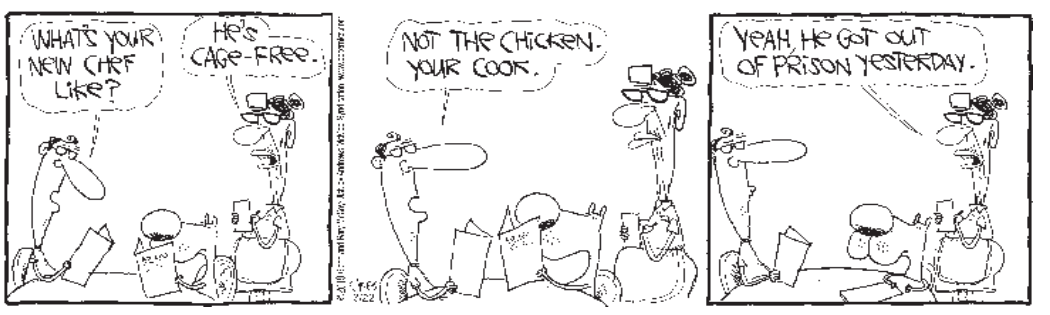
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


1:21
THE PHONE ISN'T HERE!
OH, MAN. I CAN'T MISS THIS CALL.
1:15
OKAY. I HAD TO LEAVE IT SOMEWHERE...
3-22
1:00
YOU'RE SURE I DIDN'T GIVE IT BACK?
NO! AND I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!
:53
HOW BAD IS THIS LECTURE GOING TO BE?
YOU MIGHT WANNA CLEAR A FEW HOURS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

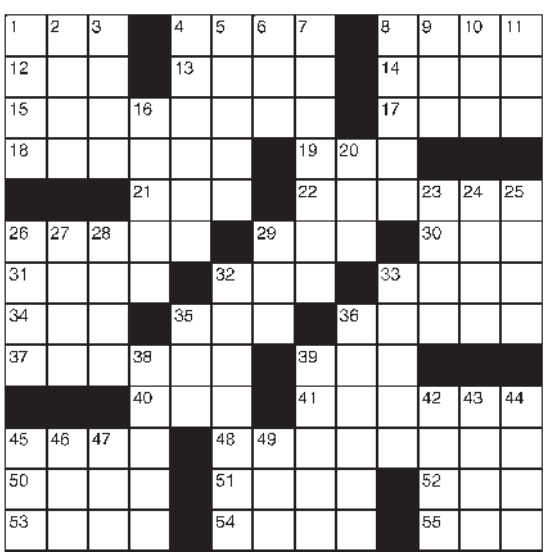
ACROSS
1 Knock
4 "The Thin Man" dog
8 Tabloid writing
12 Post-op area
13 Pace
14 Alike (Fr.)
15 Sushi fish
17 "Hi, sailor!"
18 "Burnt" crayon color
19 Melody
21 Ordinal suffix
22 Game fish
26 Looks intently
29 Chaps
30 Man-mouse link
31 Has bills
32 — de deux
33 Mythical birds
34 Capote nickname
35 Stable diet?
36 Hill of "Money-ball"
37 Raw bar mollusk
39 Impose
40 Ms. Thurman
41 Tristan's love
45 Tibia's place
48 Saltwater fish
50 Mata —
51 Hotel chain
52 Hot tub
53 Rhyming tributes
54 Lake bird
55 Fixed

DOWN
1 Eyeglass frames
2 Anti-oxidant berry
3 Brownish purple
4 Reps
5 Jazzy Vaughan
6 Dead heat
7 Country stores?
8 June birthstone
9 "This tastes awful!"
10 Asian language
11 Layer
16 Leg joints
20 Author Fleming
23 Earth orbiter
24 Killer whale
25 "One-L lama" poet
26 Attend
27 Wrong
28 Jupiter counter-part
29 Spring month
32 Sun-shade
33 Copter blade
35 Skirt edge
36 Singer Timber-lake
38 North African capital
39 Steinway product
42 Privation
43 Hoodwink
44 Coup d' —
45 HBO rival
46 Pos-sessed
47 Hot temper
49 Comic Philips

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	E	L	T		W	H		M		S	I	T
E	L	I	E		A	U	T	O		O	R	A
S	O	L	A	R	Y	E	A	R		L	A	S
S	N	I	P	E	S			S	K	U	N	K
			O	X		T	W	E	E	T		
E	A	S	T		T	A			N	I	T	E
T	W	O			H	U	T			O	A	T
E	L	L	A		U	P	S		C	N	B	C
		S	A	R	G	E		P	O			
N	O	T	S	O			R	A	P	T	O	R
A	M	I		S	C	L		T	A	I	R	E
S	A	C		E	V	E	L		Y	M	C	A
A	N	E		S	A	T	E		S	E	A	M

Yesterday's answer 3-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Reese Witherspoon, 43; Elvis Stojko, 47; Keegan-Michael Key, 48; William Shatner, 88.

Happy Birthday: Don't let too many options confuse you. Most can be eliminated quickly if you keep your main objective in mind. Discipline and hard work will keep you on course and encourage you to be reasonable when dealing with situations or people who use emotional tactics to make you second-guess what you are doing. Make this a year of progress, not divisiveness. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 21, 33, 45, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take greater interest in what others are doing, and learn through observation, asking questions and using what you learn to become more diverse. How you spend your time will not go unnoticed. Keep busy to avoid interference and criticism. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let your emotions take over and get the better of you, especially when dealing with people who can make a difference to your future. Think and consider alternatives first to get ahead instead of staying put. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get into your job or project and work hard. If you let someone distract you or persuade you to do something unproductive or indulgent, you will miss out. There will be plenty of time for romance once you finish what you start. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotional spending should be avoided. Pay off old debts and ease stress. A unique idea can turn into a savings plan. A change in the way you do things and how much you help others will lead to a better lifestyle. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make positive changes at home and to your personal life. Cutting your expenses will give you wiggle room to do things that make you happy. Planning a trip with someone you love or attending a social event is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Someone is likely to overreact if you are too caught up in your own interests. Involve the people you love in order to avoid getting into an unnecessary argument. A function that mixes business with pleasure will lead to personal and professional gains. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Focus on self-improvement. Someone you share expenses with will question you about money matters if you aren't frugal. Think twice before you make an unnecessary purchase. Personal changes don't have to be costly. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change will do you good. Look over your personal papers, responsibilities and relationships with others. Make adjustments that will free up time and money to do the things you love with the people you enjoy. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Tidy up loose ends before you move on to more enjoyable activities. Treat yourself to a pick-me-up like a new outfit, haircut or relaxing evening with someone you love. Make a lifestyle change that will distance you from poor influences. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Refuse to let an emotional incident ruin your day. Get to the root of the problem, and alter whatever is fueling the fire. A change at home will encourage you to focus more on the positive and eradicate the negative. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't get angry; get moving. It's up to you to make things happen. Don't wait for someone to take over or make plans for you. Explore the possibilities, and get involved in projects with people who excite you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make every move count. Be strategic in the way you deal with superiors. Charm will lead to greater opportunities; criticism will result in struggle. Choose your words wisely to overcome any challenge that comes your way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, proactive and heroic. You are steadfast and efficient.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	5	2				3
	4			3		1	
			6				7
	9						
7		1	3		9		4
						8	
2			5				
	1		9			4	
3			7		1		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	3	8	5	6	2	4	1	7
6	1	5	4	7	9	8	3	2
4	2	7	8	1	3	6	5	9
3	7	4	6	9	5	1	2	8
2	8	6	1	4	7	5	9	3
1	5	9	2	3	8	7	4	6
5	6	3	7	2	4	9	8	1
7	4	2	9	8	1	3	6	5
8	9	1	3	5	6	2	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ALL SPRUCED UP — Solution: 11 letters

R	Y	S	L	E	E	K	T	A	B	R	U	S	H	S
E	S	P	L	L	N	Z	E	C	A	R	G	P	P	P
P	T	D	Z	I	E	I	I	N	E	E	M	I	R	P
P	R	Z	E	R	C	A	F	N	A	F	C	F	A	E
A	A	A	E	T	P	K	G	T	A	E	R	F	L	T
D	E	E	E	P	A	I	R	S	A	G	L	E	U	A
A	H	X	E	V	L	C	H	M	A	I	R	C	P	V
C	P	A	C	A	I	I	I	R	R	H	L	O	O	I
C	L	T	L	I	O	L	N	Ⓣ	S	A	L	O	P	T
E	E	N	O	N	T	I	Ⓐ	I	S	I	H	A	R	I
S	A	A	T	N	S	Ⓔ	B	S	S	I	C	C	G	T
S	S	I	H	H	Ⓝ	R	Y	H	E	T	H	E	R	R
O	A	D	E	S	U	H	S	E	R	F	R	P	O	A
R	N	A	S	F	A	N	C	Y	D	I	T	I	O	M
Y	T	R	A	P	R	O	P	E	R	U	T	A	M	S

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Accessory, Align, Alive, Appeal, Artsy, Brush, Charm, Cheer, Classy, Clean, Clothes, Dapper, Dazzle, Dress, Excite, Fancy, Fashion, Fine, Fresh, Furbish, Garnish, Grace, Groom, Mature, Neat, Organize, Party, Perfect, Pleasant, Polish, Popular, Prime, Proper, Radiant, Sleek, Slick, Smart, Sophisticated, Spice, Spiff, Tailor, Tidy, Titivate, Trim

Yesterday's Answer: No Doubt

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SURROGATES

If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES

American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is over $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY OWNERS

Location: Talafofo area close to Kingfisher
SQ. Meters 2086/82
Interested person please call this number:
H: (670) 234-6343
C: (670) 783-1946

REQ Day & Night Child Care

Job Vacancy Announcement

(4) Child Care Workers
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Must be reliable
- Medical Background is a plus
- Willing to take pre-service training

(3) Teachers
- BSE/ED Graduate
- Three years' experience in head start, pre-school and afterschool teaching
- Must be computer literate
- Must have tutorial experience
- Willing to take pre-service training

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If interested, please email resume to reqchildcare@yahoo.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of ELYSIA RIOS DELEON GUERRERO, Deceased. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0105

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kimberly Jean Rios Deleon Guerrero has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Elysia Rios Deleon Guerrero, deceased; and that said Petition will be heard by the Court on APRIL 18 2019, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Elysia Rios Deleon Guerrero, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever bared.

DATED: MAR 18 2019

/s/ Judge

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/DPH-CCCP-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 22, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM
"COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM EVALUATOR"

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Commercial Cleaner and Maintenance

If interested, bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International School. No telephone calls please.

We are an equal opportunity employer pay no less than the CNMI minimum wage.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-GAR-062

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2019 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" 5-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE, 4X4 FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBAKCS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIRGINIA VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DFEMS-063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2019 TIME: 9:00 A.M

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) SURFACE PRO6 TABLET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-SYSTEMS OF CARE-010

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2019 TIME: 03:00PM

"WRAPAROUND PROCESS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-NMHC-064

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2019 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "E" VEHICLE FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"

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Pulisic wants foes to fear US, knows it will take time

AP

Dortmund midfielder Christian Pulisic, left, fights for the ball with Tottenham midfielder Harry Winks during the Champions League Round of 16, first leg, soccer match at Wembley stadium in London, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019.

DAVENPORT, Fla. (AP)—Christian Pulisic has a vision of a transformed U.S. soccer team, a red-white-and-blue power that gives opponents sleepless nights similar the nightmares that plague players on the eve of facing Brazil or Germany.

"I want them to fear them like a big team," he said, quickly acknowledging "obviously, we still feel we have a long way to."

The midfielder from Hershey, Pennsylvania, is with the national team this week for the first time since he became the most expensive American player. Chelsea agreed in January to buy Pulisic from Borussia Dortmund for 64 million euros (then $73 million), then loaned him back to the German club for the rest of the season.

In their first training camp with new coach Gregg Berhalter, a trio of emerging 20-year-olds could start together for the first time: Pulisic, Weston McKennie and Tyler Adams.

"There's a lot of things that we talk about, that we need to be leaders, we need to show everybody what we're about," Adams said. "A lot of times I feel that in the U.S. we talk about how many good young players we have and stuff like that, and there's a lot of players that end up falling off or not being heard about again. And you don't want to be one of those players."

Pulisic was 17 when he made his Bundesliga debut in 2016 and became a regular with the national team. When the U.S. lost at Trinidad and Tobago in October 2017, failing to qualify for the World Cup, he was the image of defeat. Pulisic crouched on the field, steadied his body with his right hand and covered his face with his left. The emotional pain was intense.

"Ever since that happened, it makes you want to be in a World Cup that much more," he said. "So, yeah, definitely it motivates me."

A regular with Dortmund the past two seasons, he struggled with a torn calf muscle last fall and a thigh injury this winter. He lost his starting job to 18-year-old English winger Jadon Sancho.

Pulisic's start against Hertha Berlin on Saturday was just his sixth in the league this season, but he scored as a sub against Stuttgart on March 9, his second league goal this season and first since September. He played in both Champions League round of 16 matches against Tottenham, though he struggled to be effective in the first leg.

"I feel very confident right now," he said. "I'm feeling very good. I feel like I'm at the top of my game. So I want to play as much as I can over there over in Dortmund. I'm not there to just finish out my time. I want to fight and they know that."

Chelsea wanted to acquire Pulisic during the January transfer window because it anticipated discipline from FIFA, which in February banned the club from signing players for the next two transfer windows. FIFA concluded the team violated regulations on the registration of young players, a penalty the Chelsea has appealed.

Pulisic long dreamed of playing in the Premier League, the most watched soccer league on U.S. television. Chelsea needs a playmaking midfielder in case Eden Hazard leaves this summer.

Knowing his time at Dortmund will end in two months does not make Pulisic feel awkward.

"My teammates are all professionals," he said. "They understand how this business works. I wanted to move and they're all very happy for me and the club is, as well."

After starting the season with 12 wins and three draws in its first 15 matches, Dortmund has two losses and three ties in its last nine games. After opening a seven-point lead in early February, it is tied with Bayern Munich atop the Bundesliga at 60 points with eight matches left, in second place on goal difference.

Dortmund last won the title in 2012 and is seeking to end Bayern's streak of six straight championships.

"We started off so strong, and unfortunately I've had some injuries kind of on and off throughout the season, which has been a low point for me," Pulisic said. "I've been working on that and trying to keep myself healthy for the rest of season. ... Obviously I'm super-excited to be there the rest the season and fight for the title."

While Dortmund uses Pulisic as a wide player, Berhalter envisions him as an attacking central midfielder, paired with McKennie.

"I don't mind where I play on the field," Pulisic said. "I just like to be in an attacking area where I can create and help the team score goals because that's where I feel I am at my best. And so I'm happy. I like the style that he has, and I like that position a lot."

Tennis' 'new week, new champ' in 2019 is unprecedented

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Roger Federer has won one trophy so far in 2019, which puts him in a tie for the ATP lead—with 18 other players.

That same type of unprecedented parity is happening in the WTA, too, with 13 different champions from 13 tournaments.

No tennis season in the Open era's 50 years ever started this way for the men or women, let alone both. As the tours shift to the Miami Open this week and next, there is a level of depth and a lack of supremacy that Federer, for one, finds intriguing.

"Definitely says something about (how) there is shifting going on, on both tours. That it's maybe harder to dominate. Or it's harder to keep on, sort of, having the same winners," Federer said Wednesday. "And the young guys are really pushing through, which is a thing we've been looking at for some time now. It's just not easy winning tournaments, and it seems easier for them now, which is good. And it doesn't mean the other people are not as good. It's just that there is a shifting going on."

Never was that more apparent than last weekend at Indian Wells.

Dominic Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian without a Grand Slam title, won the men's final against Federer, a former No. 1 with 20 majors who is 37; even more strikingly, Bianca Andreescu, an 18-year-old wild-card entry from Canada who'd never been ranked in the top 100 until January, triumphed in the women's final against Angelique Kerber, a former No. 1 with three majors who is 31.

"We kind of can see that everyone's sort of at the same level," said current No. 1 Naomi Osaka, "and it's basically whoever wants it the most and is willing to put in all the work."

She won the past two Grand Slam tournaments; the Australian Open was her lone championship of this wide-open season. Novak Djokovic won the last three majors, but he, too, managed to hold a trophy only once this year, in Melbourne.

Who hasn't given a champion's speech in 2019? Serena Williams, whose last title came while she was pregnant at the 2017 Australian Open.

The superiority that Williams, Federer, Djokovic or Rafael Nadal sustained for stretches in the past has not been on display by anyone.

"Everyone can believe more that there is a chance for everybody," said Simona Halep, the reigning French Open champion. "And the fact that the tournaments are open makes it more interesting, also, for the fans."

Then she joked: "And also for us. It's not like before, (with) Serena winning everything."

As with any sport, of course, there are new names that pop up here and there in tennis every year.

It's just that there are more of them arising currently.

"A lot of people who don't watch tennis regularly are only familiar with one or two faces on each side, and that's kind of it. By having so many champions and so much depth, it forces players to keep trying to improve week to week because they know whoever they're going to play is going to give them a run for their money," said Danielle Collins, a 25-year-old American who was 0-5 in Grand Slam action before a run to the Australian Open semifinals. "For the spectator side, it's going to educate people more about more of us and how good of us some of us are. That helps promote tennis."

Federer pointed out that there are those who will find a reason to gripe, no matter what.

As in: One player wins everywhere? That's boring.

Or: A bunch of players divvy up everything? Ugh, no one knows who they are.

His take?

"I actually think it's always good, whatever happens, to be honest. I see positives all around. I came through a time where guys were dominating, and (then) they were not, and then there were multiple winners—and people always thought about it quite negatively," Federer said. "It was never, ever right. I always see it as it's always, always good. Because there's always fascinating stories."

He is not so sure the ATP's 19-champions-at-19-tournaments trend will continue.

"Clay is coming up; that's Rafa's territory. I'm sure that Novak is going to be really, really tough to beat here," Federer said. "Maybe we'll speak again in a few months and everything's back to 'normal.' I don't know. But it's definitely good what's happening right now.

Ichiro cheered in Tokyo; Mariners top A's in opener

TOKYO (AP) —Ichiro drew all the cheers. Most everyone else on the Seattle Mariners did all the hitting.

A crowd that came to salute Ichiro Suzuki in his homeland saw Domingo Santana deliver the biggest hit at the Tokyo Dome, a grand slam that sent Seattle over the Oakland Athletics, 9-7, Wednesday in the Major League Baseball opener.

Batting ninth and knowing he'd get two plate appearances, Ichiro popped up and worked a walk. The 45-year-old star took his spot in right field to begin the bottom of the fourth inning, then was pulled to another huge ovation. He was met with hugs from the Mariners on the diamond.

"The fans in Japan probably aren't used to the reception I got from my teammates, but it's not that unusual in the majors," Ichiro said.

Mariners manager Scott Servais said Ichiro will play in Thursday's final game of the series, but there is no guarantee he'll start.

"We certainly want to give him an opportunity to go out and play, but we also want to get some other guys in the game," Servais said. "I understand everybody wants to see him go all nine innings. We're trying to do the best thing for the team and Ichiro understands."

This marked the earliest opening day ever—the summer sport actually started on the last day of winter. No doubt, most fans in North America were sound asleep when Oakland's Mike Fiers threw the first pitch at 5:36 a.m. EDT (6:36 p.m. local).

A year after the Cubs' Ian Happ homered on the very pitch of the season, the ball again was flying.

Tim Beckham also homered as several Seattle newcomers excelled. Khris Davis, who led the majors with 48 home runs last year, Stephen Piscotty and Matt Chapman connected for the A's.

"It was great. It's a fun crowd to play in front of. Even the pregame stuff was exciting. I think everybody had a good time," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said.

A packed crowd of 45,787 was buzzing for its favorite star, sending cheers, chants and camera flashes for Ichiro bounding all around the park. Signs and Ichiro jerseys were plenty, too.

Ichiro became the second-oldest position player to start an opener, only a few months younger than Julio Franco was for Atlanta in 2004. Several of the players in this game weren't born when Ichiro began his pro career.

Ichiro is getting very near the end of a sensational pro career that began in Japan in 1992 when he was at 18. He stopped playing last May to become a Mariners special assistant—after totaling 4,367 hits on both sides of the ocean—and struggled in spring training this year.

AP

Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki fouls a ball in the fourth inning of a Major League Baseball opening game against the Oakland Athletics at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

Santana, one of many Mariners new to the lineup, had no trouble at the plate. His opposite-field grand slam capped a five-run burst in the third for a 5-2 lead and Beckham's drive in the fifth made it 9-4.

Beckham got three hits and scored three times. Also making a nice debut for Seattle were Jay Bruce, who singled for MLB's first hit of the season, and Edwin Encarnacion, who scored twice.

The Mariners won for the 12th time in 15 openers. They also beat the A's in 2012 when MLB last started in Japan.

Seattle starter Marco Gonzales hung in for six innings, allowing three earned runs and seven hits, and got the win. Felix Hernandez had started the last 10 openers for the Mariners.

Betts says he expects to become free agent

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Don't expect AL MVP Mookie Betts to agree to a long-term contract with the Boston Red Sox before he can become a free agent in late 2020.

Despite Mike Trout's pending $432 million, 12-year agreement with the Los Angeles Angels, Nolan Arenado's $260 million, eight-year deal with the Colorado Rockies and Alex Bregman's pending $100 million, six-year contract with the Houston Astros, Betts is content to remain on track for testing the market.

"That's exactly what I expect," he said Wednesday, the day after Trout's deal became widely known. "Didn't expect anything to happen until I'm a free agent. So, it's just one of those things where you just got to go out and play. Can't worry about the economics of the game right now. They have to take care of what they have to take care of. I'm going to take care of what I have to take care of. But the common thing is to win a World Series, and I think that's definitely what we both want to do."

Manny Machado joined the San Diego Padres as a free agent on a $300 million, 10-year deal while Bryce Harper signed with the Philadelphia Phillies for $330 million over 13 seasons.

Betts, 26, one of the best players in baseball since making his major league debut in 2014, has a $20 million, one-year contract and is eligible for arbitration again next winter.

"I'm under no pressure to do anything," Betts said. "It's OK for two sides to disagree. That's perfectly fine. It's normal. I got two more years, going to make the best of them. Got to worry about Year 1 right here. I'm going out and doing my best to help the team win, and also next year. It's just one of those things where it's all right to disagree."

Betts said he loves Boston and playing for the Red Sox. But he also has other things in mind.

"I've definitely grown to love going up north in the cold and all those type of things," he said. "But it definitely doesn't mean I want to sell myself short of my value.

"Everybody values different things—what do you value, where you're going to be in five years.

"I definitely don't pay that much attention to it that far in the future. I kind of worry about what's going on now and just being treated fairly. I think that's just kind of the main thing.

"The biggest thing in my mind is just to be treated fairly."

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Heat snap Spurs' 9-game winning streak

AP

Miami Heat's Kelly Olynyk, center, competes for the rebound against San Antonio Spurs' LaMarcus Aldridge, right, and Derrick White during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 20, 2019, in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dwyane Wade was upset, ecstatic, tenacious and gracious in his final battle with the San Antonio Spurs.

It was the perfect ending to Wade's fiery showdowns with San Antonio, albeit an unusual one with the fans serenading him with cheers as he walked off the AT&T Center court after one final win over the Spurs.

Goran Dragic had 22 points and the Miami Heat snapped the Spurs' nine-game winning streak with a 110-105 victory Wednesday night, sending Wade home a winner in what was likely his final game in San Antonio.

"We're playing as good as a group together as we've played since I got back here," Wade said. "It's fun playing basketball with these guys this way."

Dion Waiters added 18 points and Josh Richardson had 15 for Miami, which won its third straight game to remain eighth in the Eastern Conference.

San Antonio saw its 11-game home winning streak come to an end but remained fifth in the West. It was the Spurs' first loss since Feb. 25 in Brooklyn as part of their 1-7 Rodeo Road Trip.

Wade, who is retiring after 16 seasons, has been honored in his final game at visiting arenas. This one was special, though, given his history against the Spurs, coach Gregg Popovich and their vaunted Big Three of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili.

Wade was key to the battles between Miami and San Antonio in the 2013 and 2014 NBA Finals. The Heat rallied from a six-point deficit in the final 20.3 seconds to force overtime and win Game 6 on their way to capturing the 2013 championship. San Antonio won the title the following season against Miami to avenge that defeat.

The Spurs honored Wade before the game with a 1½-minute video, including their tussles in the NBA Finals. After the video played, Popovich presented Wade with a gift box that included signed jerseys from Duncan, Parker and Ginobili.

"That's dope," Wade said. "I didn't know it was going to be before the game. I like the music swag they had on it and the videos they put up. It was really cool. I'm so thankful and I'm so appreciative. I don't expect those things to happen to me at all. I just came out and did my job every night and I'm thankful for the relationships that I have. I have a great one with Coach (Popovich) and I just appreciate what they did.

San Antonio also gifted Miami the first half, falling behind by as many as 17 points.

The Spurs rallied from a 12-point deficit entering the fourth quarter to pull to 108-105 on Rudy Gay's floater with 1:07 remaining, but a turnover by DeMar DeRozan and a pair of free throws by Kelly Olynk sealed the victory.

"We had a shot in the fourth quarter, but for three quarters they whipped us physically and discipline-wise," Popovich said. "They deserve the win for that reason."

The Spurs had six players in double figures, but only two starters. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 17 points and DeRozan added 16. Patty Mills and Marco Belinelli added 17 apiece.

Grizzlies 126, Rockets 125, OT

In Memphis, Jonas Valanciunas' offensive rebound and free throw with 0.1 second left in overtime helped the host Grizzlies topple the Houston Rockets.

Valanciunas paired a career-high 33 points with 15 rebounds and teamed with Mike Conley (35 points, eight assists) to help Memphis fend off James Harden and the rallying Rockets. Valanciunas corralled a miss by Conley before absorbing a foul from Houston center Clint Capela on the game's deciding play.

That followed an MVP-caliber stretch from Harden, who scored 18 of his game-high 57 points in the fourth quarter before adding eight points during a 28-second stretch in overtime.

76ers 118, Celtics 115

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid collected 37 points and a career-high 22 rebounds to go along with a late key block on Kyrie Irving as the 76ers averted a season sweep by Boston.

Jimmy Butler scored 15 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the 76ers, who have won six in a row overall. Irving scored 16 of his 36 points in the first quarter for the Celtics, who fell short against Philadelphia for just the third time in the teams' past 20 regular-season meetings.

Al Horford scored 22 points and Terry Rozier added 20 points off the bench for Boston, which saw guard Marcus Smart receive a flagrant-2 foul and an immediate ejection less than a minute into the third quarter following a two-handed shove into the back of Embiid.

Raptors 123, Thunder 114, OT

In Oklahoma City, Pascal Siakam scored 33 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead Toronto to an overtime win.

The Raptors dominated the extra session, outscoring the Thunder 13-4 after letting a 19-point, second-half lead slip away. Oklahoma City didn't score in the extra period until 31.5 seconds remained. Kawhi Leonard scored five of his 22 points in overtime, and Fred VanVleet finished with 23 points for the Raptors.

Russell Westbrook, returning from a one-game suspension and coming off a 2-for-16 shooting performance Saturday in a loss to the Golden State Warriors, helped lift the Thunder with 42 points and 16-of-29 shooting.

Cavaliers 107, Bucks 102

In Cleveland, Collin Sexton scored 25 points, and Jordan Clarkson added 23 off the bench to lead the Cavaliers over the short-handed Milwaukee.

Coming into the game, Sexton had been the first rookie to score at least 23 points in six consecutive games since Tim Duncan did it twice for the San Antonio Spurs in 1998. Sexton now has accomplished the feat in seven straight games.

Milwaukee dressed only nine players and was without Giannis Antetokounmpo and Nikola Mirotic. Antetokounmpo missed his second straight game with an ankle injury. The Bucks announced Wednesday that Mirotic will be out two to four weeks with a thumb injury. Khris Middleton led Milwaukee with 26 points.

Magic 119, Pelicans 96

In Orlando, the Magic led from start to finish, pounding New Orleans for their third consecutive win.

Evan Fournier scored 22 points for the Magic, and Aaron Gordon had 20. Nikola Vucevic contributed 15 points and 17 rebounds.

Frank Jackson was the only Pelicans starter to score in double figures, netting 14 points. Reserve Stanley Johnson scored a team-high 18 points off the bench. Pelicans star forward Anthony Davis did not play due to a family matter.

Bulls 126, Wizards 120, OT

In Chicago, Kris Dunn atoned for a late miss in regulation with a pair of 3-pointers in overtime, and Lauri Markkanen added a back-breaking trey with 32.3 seconds remaining to give the Bulls the win.

The loss assured the Wizards (30-42) of a losing season and cost them a key game in their desperate quest to move up from 11th place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Markkanen, the game's leading scorer with 32 points, also collected a game-high 13 rebounds. Dunn had 26 points and 13 assists for the Bulls, who won their second straight after a five-game losing streak.

Jabari Parker scored 28 points for the Wizards against his former team.

Trail Blazers 126, Mavericks 118

In Portland, Damian Lillard scored 33 points and handed out 12 assists as the Trail Blazers knocked off Dallas.

Six players scored in double figures for the Trail Blazers, including Seth Curry with 20 off the bench. It was the fifth win in six games for Portland.

Luka Doncic scored 24 points and Justin Jackson contributed 21 for the Mavericks, who have lost 14 of their past 16 outings.

Jazz 137, Knicks 116

In New York, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points in three quarters and Utah easily ran its winning streak to five games by rolling over the Knicks.

Mitchell helped the Jazz get their latest win by shooting 12 of 20 and hitting five 3-pointers. Utah matched a team record by hitting 20 3-pointers.

Rookie Kevin Knox scored 27 points for the Knicks, who lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	51	21	.708	—
x-Philadelphia	47	25	.653	4.0
Boston	43	29	.597	8
Brooklyn	37	36	.507	14.5
New York	14	58	.194	37
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	53	19	.736	—
Indiana	44	28	.611	9
Detroit	36	34	.514	16
Chicago	21	52	.288	32.5
Cleveland	19	53	.264	34
Southeast Division				
Miami	35	36	.493	—
Orlando	34	38	.472	1.5
Charlotte	31	39	.443	3.5
Washington	30	42	.417	5.5
Atlanta	24	48	.333	11.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	48	22	.686	—
LA Clippers	42	30	.583	7
Sacramento	34	36	.486	14
LA Lakers	31	40	.437	17.5
Phoenix	17	55	.236	32
Southwest Division				
Houston	45	27	.625	—
San Antonio	42	30	.583	3
New Orleans	31	43	.419	15
Memphis	29	42	.408	15.5
Dallas	28	43	.394	16.5
Northwest Division				
x-Denver	47	22	.681	—
Portland	44	27	.620	4.0
Utah	42	29	.592	6.0
Oklahoma City	42	30	.583	6.5
Minnesota	32	39	.451	16

x- clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIC tops PEGS in Emon Lodge caging re-opening

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Pacific Islands Club Saipan outlasted Pacific Engineering Group & Services to earn a 70-64 victory, as action in the 2018 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League resumed last Saturday at Koblerville Gymnasium.

PIC and PEGS exchanged leads in the majority of the game, but the former ended up winning the back-and-forth match after shutting down the latter in the last four minutes of the fourth canto.

Sean Rabasto broke the last deadlock (64-all) with and and-1 play and PIC had the possession back after its full-court press forced PEGS to commit an 8-second violation at the backcourt. Rabasto then split his free throws after getting fouled in their next offensive set, while PIC continued to play good defense in the closing minutes of the match, making PEGS to commit more errors. PIC went on to convert one of those turnovers into points with James Abuy escaping with a fastbreak layup for the final basket in the game.

Rabasto led all scorers with his 21 markers, while James added 20 points, 12 of which came from beyond the arc. Norita did all the damage in the paint and finished with 14 points, while Butch Sublemente and Paulo Rafols chipped in 5 markers apiece.

Ting Alegre, Don Brennan, and Melvin Villarin had 19, 18, and 15 points respectively, for PEGS.

Meanwhile, Pacific Postal Plus withstood Cellular Pro's three-point barrage for a 90-81 victory.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
PIC Saipan's Jerome Norita pulls up for a point-blank shot during their game against PEGS in the Emon Lodge caging last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Jener Pineda and Jonathan Broncano teamed up in Pacific Postal's win after scoring 29 points apiece. Ryan Odicta also finished in double figures with 13 markers, while Atie Laxamana and Rommel Usi combined for 11,

Jio Dancel also recorded 29 points, as he caught fire from the 3-point land, making six triples. Sonny Ebuen contributed 20, while John Santos logged 19 points and hit five of Cellular Pro's 15 triples. Cellular Pro's impressive marksmanship from deep was all for naught, as Pacific Postal effectively countered with an explosive offense of its own.

In other results in the league that had a long break after Saipan was hit by Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year, Islander Rent-A-Car flattened the Kanoa Krushers, 80-65.

Rocyl Ritual had a game-high 40 points for Islander, while Bryan Manabat and Joel Saplan contributed 11 markers each.

In the first game, MJD Corporation was handed the outright win, as its duel against Kensington Hotel at 8am never got to tip off because the latter did not enough players to start the match.

Second Game

Pacific Postal Plus 90—Broncano 29, Pineda 29, Odicta 13, Laxamana, Usi 5, Claveria 4, Flores 4.

Cellular Pro 81—Dancel 29, Ebuen 20, Santos 19, Samson 8, Garcia 5.

Third Game

PIC 70—Rabasto 21, Abuy 20, Norita 14, Rafols 5, Sublemente 5, Tolentino 3, Baldo 2, Ballestros 2,

PEGS 64—Alegre 19, Brennan 18, Villarin 15, Rasa 6, Dayrit 4, Libuw 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-18, 36-39, 57-54, 70-64.

MARIANAS RUGBY CLUB OFF TO GUAM
The Marianas Rugby Club's men's and women's teams will play in the Guam "True Grit" Rugby International Tournament this weekend.

MGA members stand out in Luta golf tourney

Marianas Golf Association players had a 1-2 finish in the Inaugural Aluf Luta Golf Tournament held at the Rota Resort last week.

The group's president J.J. Atalig earned the first place honors in the double-peoria competition, while MGA member Ned Norita came in at second. Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, Edwin Orilla, and Melvin Batang rounded out the Top 5. Atalig went home with $1,500, while Norita, Camacho, Orilla, and Batang pocketed $800, $500, $300, and $200, respectively. The Top 5 placers also received trophies.

Besides his third place finish, Camacho also made a longest drive shot on hole No. 11 and had the best gross scores (74). Chloe Hocog was the other winner in the low gross category after firing an 82 in the women's field and she and Camacho were awarded trophies and $200 each.

In other results, Norita duplicated Camacho's longest drive shot on hole No. 1, while closest to the pin winners were Darren Santos (hole No. 3), Tito Hocog (No. 7), Domingo Atalig (No. 12), and Henry Mangloña (No. 14).

Around 50 golfers from the host, Saipan, and Guam joined the tournament, which was organized by Rota Golf Association president Arvin Ogo and supported by Ambros Guam and Rota Mayor Efrain Atalig. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

KANOA

From Page 32

that he nailed a pair of goals in a less than a minute and MP United's last three goals in a five-minute stretch. His first goal was recorded just four minutes into the second half.

While Castro finished off Kanoa-2, it was Richard Steele who started things off for MP United after earning two goals in the first half, while Dylan Mister made it a 3-0 lead for the team in the closing minutes of the opening frame. Steele then completed a hat trick when he got his third goal just 30 seconds into the second half before Castro took over the rest of the way.

Meanwhile, in the third game in the division, TanHoldings notched win No. 2 after shutting down Matansa, 2-0.

Oliver Fajardo knocked in the twin goals for TanHoldings after lighting up the board in the 25th and 58th minute.

CO-ED U12A DIVISION
Kanoa 11, MP United 1

Kanoa kept its undefeated record in three games following a blowout against MP United.

Taehun Han paced Kanoa with his three goals, while Tyler Omelau chipped in two. Kanoa ran a balance offense with Ronney Gil, Jolo Izeah, Kaleen Leemarvin, and Adrian Lubao also scoring in the easy win. MP United avoided a shutout loss after drawing a goal from Moshe Sikkel.

TanHoldings 8, Shirley's 1

The other match in the division was also one-sided with TanHoldings dominating Shirley's.

Mark Ryan Costales, Tamia Hix, and Morico Clarides nailed two goals apiece to lead TanHoldings' second win, while Kaitlyn Andrei Chavez and Jared Villagomez chipped in one each. Jayvin Bisek made the only goal for Shirley's.

BOYS U18 DIVISION
MP United 4, TanHoldings 1

MP United took the solo lead in the division after outclassing erstwhile leader TanHoldings last Friday.

Sunjoon Tenorio singlehandedly towed MP United to its third straight victory after scoring all of his team's goals. Tenorio hit his target in the fourth, 29th, 62nd, and 67th minute, while Joshua Waldo delivered the lone goal for TanHoldings in the 30th.

Matansa 1, NMI U15 NT 0

Matansa barged into the win column after dropping its debut following a close victory over the NMI Boys U15 National Team.

Romel Jamilia Mendoza registered the only goal in the match in the 48th minute.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of March 16, 2019)

CO-ED U12 A DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	3	3	0	0	27	2	25	9
TanHoldings	3	2	0	1	9	15	-6	6
MP United	3	1	0	2	12	13	-1	3
Shirley's	3	0	0	3	2	20	-18	0

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	3	3	0	0	32	2	30	9
MP United	3	3	0	0	18	1	17	9
TanHoldings	3	2	0	1	13	3	10	6
Shirley's	3	1	0	2	2	14	-12	3
Matansa	3	0	0	3	0	15	-15	0
Kanoa-2	3	0	0	3	1	31	-30	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	3	3	0	0	18	1	17	9
TanHoldings	3	2	0	1	11	5	6	6
Matansa	2	1	0	1	1	4	-3	3
U15 NT	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0
Kanoa	2	0	0	2	1	15	-14	0

KNIGHTS

From Page 32

the reeling Geckos.

At the resumption of the game, the Geckos fought back with Hudkins churning out 7 and Nishimura anchoring their defense to set up his teammates for easy baskets. SIS rallied to produce 15 points against the Knights' 9 and stay afloat as the Geckos were down by only a deuce. However, that was the closest that SIS could get, as Dela Cruz took over in the final canto.

The Knights finished the double-round robin regular season with a 11-3 card for second place in the team standings, while SIS fell to a 4-5 slate with three games left in its schedule. The Geckos will play Grace Christian Academy today, while their last two matches are set for Monday and Tuesday.

Also on Monday, the playoffs for the girls division will start with GCA battling Agape Christian School and the winner advancing to the finals against the top-ranked MCS on March 29.

MCS 1 53 —Richardson 21, Dela Cruz 15, Evangelista 6, Factor 5, Ong 2, Kiser 2, Park 2.

SIS 1 40—Hudkins 16, J.P. Sablan 9, Nishimura 9, Lee 4, Jason Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-13, 28-20, 37-35, 53-40.

CAROL

From Page 32

Islands Club Tennis Championships will have its second and final set of games this weekend.

In the centerpiece men's open, eight players will vie for the division champion. Leading the list is the CNMI's No. 1 junior player Robbie Schorr, while veterans Jeff Race and Bobby Cruz, junior players Sean Lee, Vincent Tudela, and Jimin Woo, J.R. Jacinto, and Vince Aquino are also in the mix.

In the women's open, there are only four entries in Tania Tan, Mayuko Arriola, Maria Gregoire, and Malika Miyawaki. In the men's 4.0 singles, junior player Daniel Kang is the early favorite and will be joined in the field by David Kwon, Gary Ramsey, Andy Kim, and Anthony Gregoire.

Gregoire will also compete in the boys U16 doubles and will partner with Schorr. The pairs of Kwon and Jun Wang, Kang and Isaac Heo, Andy Kim and Sam Ryu, and Woo and Jun Cheol Hwang will also play this weekend.

In the girls U12 doubles, Dana Lee will team up with Serin Chung and they will battle the division crown against the duos of Hoo Wang and Anna Kwon, Helen Kim and Seiyul Hong, and Irin Chung and Savita Sikkel. For the boys U12 doubles, Wataru Kadokura and June will go head-to-head against Nasol Wessel and Juncheol Hwang.

The girls U16 doubles also has only two teams with Hye Jin Elliot joining forces with Serin and Maria Gregoire pairing with Helen Kim.

Pulisic wants foes to fear US, knows it will take time

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Heat snap Spurs' 9-game winning streak

PAGE 30

Kanoa, MPU romp past foes

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Football Club, left, and Kanoa FC-1 players ward each other off as they battle for the ball during the first half of their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and MP United Football Club are still unscathed in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

MP United bagged its third win in as many games after whipping Kanoa-2, 10-0, while Kanoa-1 earned the same perfect mark following a similar easy victory over Shirley's FC, 9-1, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Jim Kurt Maniago and Merrick Toves caused a lot of problems to Shirley's defense of the lack of it, as they combined for seven goals. They alternately knocked in goals for Kanoa-1 with Maniago scoring in the seventh, 18th, 42nd, and 67th minute and Merrick hitting the board in the 13th, 41st, and 65th.

Merrick's younger brother, Markus, added a pair after finding his target in the second and 22nd minute. Shirley's lone goal in the match came from Jayvin Bisek in the second half.

Three players also scored for MP United in its demolition of Kanoa-2. Richard Castro was on top of the short list, as he led MP United's breakaway in the second half where he delivered all his six goals. Castro was really on target in last weekend's lopsided match

See KANOA on Page 31

Carol on track; PIC tourney resumes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee earned her second straight win in the singles event of the ITF/CAT North African Circuit to march into the quarterfinals of the Grade 3 event in Casablanca, Morocco yesterday.

Lee outclassed Austria's Emily Meyer, 6-3, 6-1, to make it to the Round of 8 where she will be paired against Hungary's Luca Janosi. The Hungarian advanced after sweeping two opponents, Burundi's Aisha Niyonkuru, 6-2, 6-0, and Nigeria's Barakat Oyinlomo Quadre, 6-3, 6-3.

The Commonwealth player is seeded No. 2 in the 32-player field, which has four other seeded players barging into the quarterfinals. Joining Lee in the Round of 8 were No. 1 Abuane Droguet, No. 4 Margaux Rouvroy, No. 3 Sophia Biolay, No. 8 Lucie Nguyen, and qualifier Celia Belle Mohr of France, and the unranked Ekaterina Vinnik of Russia.

The tournament in Casablanca is the second of the three events Lee lined up for her Morocco trip.

Meanwhile, in a local competition, the 19th Pacific

See CAROL on Page 31

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Helen Kim bends down to hit a low ball during her and Isaac Heo's mixed doubles game against Anthony Gregoire and Serin Chung in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships last Saturday at the PIC Saipan hard court.

Knights win last regular season game

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School 1 closed out its regular season campaign in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League with a victory over Saipan International School, 53-40, yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Geckos were within just 2 points behind the Knights at the end of the third quarter, 35-37, before the latter put their foot on the pedal in the fourth canto to leave SIS in the dust.

Chioni Dela Cruz swished two treys and made a couple of layups to score 10 points in the payoff canto and hand MCS 1 the double-digit winning margin. Aven Evangelista and Matthew Richardson also contributed in the Knights' fourth-quarter assault with the former starting the decisive period with a shot from beyond the arc and the latter making a mid-range jumper and a free throw to round out the Knights' 16-point performance.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School 1's Aven Evangelista is left open for a long shot during their game against Saipan International School in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Before saving their best for last, things looked bleak for the Knights as they mustered just 6 points and were blindsided by the Geckos' 13-point output. Jason Sablan scored SIS' first 5 points, while A.J. Hudkins followed up with two baskets from close range. Then with the clock ticking, Kuu Nishimura pulled up from deep for the buzzer-beating trey that gave the Geckos the short-lived 7 point cushion.

After the slow start, MCS pumped out 22 points in the second period and held its opponents to just 7 markers to grab the upper hand at halftime, 28-20. Richardson accounted for 13 of his team's production in the second frame, while Dela Cruz, Angelo Factor, and Minsu Park also hit baskets to turn the tables on

See KNIGHTS on Page 31